

HIT AND MYTH  
GRAHAM SEAR  
ON COLD COMFORTS  
FOR THE JOBS

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDA

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THE TONY WALKER IN HONG KONG

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# Rates down again in mortgage war

BY ANNE ASHWORTH  
AND SARA MCCONNELL

THE mortgage war raging among banks and building societies intensified yesterday when the Nationwide cut its variable rate for a million borrowers by a quarter of a point to 6.74 per cent.

The new rate, a belated response to last month's base rate cut, is the lowest to be declared by a major lender and is half a point below most of its rivals. Interest paid to savers will also be cut.

The Nationwide last cut its mortgage rate by just under half a point in February as part of a £200 million scheme to demonstrate to customers the benefits of remaining with an

old-fashioned building society at a time when rivals are offering hand-outs as they convert into banks. The latest change, which takes effect on May 1, takes rates to their lowest level since January 1995.

A Nationwide customer with a £50,000 repayment mortgage will now pay £326.03 a month, £14.44 less than at the Halifax. In March 1990, when rates hit a peak of 15.4 per cent, such a borrower would have paid £603.

None of the other big names in the industry responded to the move, having reduced their rates when the base rate fell last month, and some wondered privately how long the Nationwide could sustain such discounting. But the Yorkshire Build-

ing Society, the tenth in the league, swiftly cut the rate for its 150,000 borrowers to 6.74 per cent.

A Halifax spokeswoman said: "We keep our rates under review, but we are not intending to take any action as a result of the Nationwide's move." She also pointed out that Halifax borrowers could take advantage of a two-year discounted deal at 3.89 per cent.

The Nationwide decision will slightly affect the rate at the Cheltenham & Gloucester, which has narrowed its margins to return £200 million of its profits to customers in the shape of more competitive rates for both savers and borrowers. Yesterday Brian Davis, the chief executive said that the

latest move proved "you are really better off with a building society".

There is some evidence that lower interest rates are attracting people back to the housing market. Nearly a third of estate agents saw prices rise in their areas last month, according to the National Association of Estate Agents — the first time that such a high proportion of agents have seen signs of a price increase since 1989.

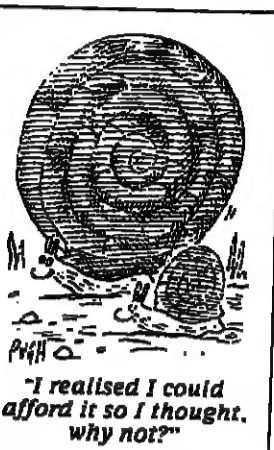
The association's findings will fuel the optimism sparked last week by the Halifax Building Society, which announced that prices had risen for eight consecutive months.

Some first-time buyers, who cannot remember interest rates as high as 15 per cent, are, however,

unmoved by the fact that rates are at a 30-year low. They may be more swayed by the fact that houses are far more affordable than they were for their parents in the Sixties.

Today's buyers have to pay £50,930 for the average house — just over two-and-a-half times the average income of £19,700, while in each of the previous three decades, people had to pay more than three times their annual salary for their home. In 1965, the average house price was £3,418 and the average income £1,147; in 1975 the figures were £11,288 and £3,558, and in 1985, the average house cost £35,436 against an income of £10,555.

Pennington, page 27



## US helicopters ready to mount Liberian rescue

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND LEYLA LINTON

UNITED STATES helicopters were last night poised to begin rescuing hundreds of Britons and Americans who had sought refuge in the US Embassy while intense fighting continued to rage in Monrovia, the Liberian capital.

A State Department official said in Washington that the helicopters, that arrived in Monrovia from Sierra Leone "will not go back empty".

The White House said that President Clinton remained concerned. Earlier, William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said troops were standing by and the US was preparing to handle a "sizeable evacuation". A military team in Monrovia was assessing the situation.

Some 30 Britons out of 56 registered with the British Embassy were sheltering in the American Embassy, with more than 200 of the 450 Americans in Liberia. Some 20,000 people are also camped with bundles of belongings and cooking pots under trees near the embassy annex.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that it was co-ordinating evacuation plans with the Americans, who promised to take out all Britons who wanted to leave. Some aid workers outside the capital are likely to stay as they are not in immediate

danger. Richard Burge, an aid programme co-ordinator, said it had been relatively quiet overnight, but armed youths were roaming the street and there had been some looting.

"Everybody is very tired," he said. "There is a very tense atmosphere but we are all coping and sitting here, keeping our heads down."

Seven staff for Save the Children have been sheltering from the fighting in a safe apartment block in Mambo Point since Friday. They had been bringing healthcare and food to the front lines in the interior but the fighting had gradually forced them to suspend their operations during the past two weeks.

The United Nations has already begun to fly out some of its staff, with an official describing the situation as "utter chaos". He said there were a lot of bodies lying around, while people were going in and out of the city searching for relatives. UN offices had been looted. Andrew Dunham, a Briton evacuated to Sierra Leone by helicopter from the UN compound on Monday, said the airport was severely damaged and rocket fire had hit a local hotel.

Fighting appeared to subside slightly yesterday after

four days of clashes that have left scores dead. Fighting and looting began on Saturday after the ruling Council of State sacked Roosevelt Johnson as Minister of Rural Development and ordered his arrest for murder in a clash with the militia.

Dozens of Lebanese hostages were still being held as fighters loyal to Mr Johnson sought refuge in the former army barracks. About 40 Lebanese, mostly women and children, were seized, together with about 20 Nigerians from Econog, the West African peace-keeping force, and several hundred Liberians. Three Lebanese have been freed.

Kallu Kalluniya, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which is sheltering about 150 people in its compound, said the fighting had continued unabated during the day, although there were periods of relative quiet. "We can hear gunshots, and see plumes of smoke from parts of the city. Many buildings have been burnt down."

Dr Kalluniya said of the refugees from the fighting: "You see fear on the faces of many of them. Like frightened dogs really. But they hope for the best. This is a desperate situation. We are hoping that Econog can still deploy and recapture its credibility."

He added: "We are running short on food and water because it is unsafe for us to access the warehouses in other areas of the city. We have enough for two more days. At least we have shelter."

Thomas Grant, a British businessman, said he was lucky to find shelter in the American compound. Many other foreigners had been trapped outside by the fighting. "There are shootings and killings going on all over."

The fighting is the latest flare-up in a civil war that has lasted six years and killed 150,000 people.



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TROOPS  
2,100 Marines



Pauline Robinson who administered vital first aid on a flight from Kuala Lumpur

## Nurse wins mid-air battle to save sick tennis player

BY LYN JENKINS

A BRITISH nurse battled for two hours aboard a Jumbo jet to save the life of a leading tennis player who had collapsed with a suspected brain infection.

As Lucy Needham, 22, writhed with convulsions Pauline Robinson, who had responded to a call for help from the crew, administered first aid and covered her head in a cushion cover filled with ice from the drinks trolley. Mrs Robinson said she thought her patient was going to die and the captain diverted the aircraft to India.

Miss Needham, who was returning home after playing in two tournaments in Java, fell ill about an hour into the 13 hour flight to Heathrow from Kuala Lumpur. "She was having seizures. Her face was distorted, her hands were like claws and her legs were cycling. She had a high temperature and had no muscle tone in her right arm or leg," said Mrs Robinson, 48, from

her home in Ravenshorpe, Northamptonshire.

"I have seen people like that before and knew it was something cerebral. I thought she had meningitis or encephalitis. I thought she was going to die and told the stewardesses I did not think she would make it back to England." She

wrapped Miss Needham in four airline blankets and held her head in the ice-filled cushion for two hours while the British Airways jumbo jet jettisoned more than 300 tonnes of fuel over the sea in order to land at Madras airport.

Miss Needham, who is ranked 30 among British women players, was a top junior competitor but opted to put her tennis career on hold while studying for a degree at Loughborough University.

Doctors at the Apollo Hospital, Madras, carried out tests including a brain scan but have been unable to diagnose her condition. Yesterday she was said to be improving and doctors said that her illness was not life threatening.

John Hobbs, her stepfather, spoke to her on the telephone in her hospital bed yesterday. "She was still very groggy so it is hard to work out what happened. But it appears she probably had some virus and had a violent reaction to it."



Needham: collapsed with suspected brain infection

## Broken leg footballer faces year of injury

DAVID BUSSETT, the Coventry City defender who broke his leg in the second minute of the Carling Premiership game against Manchester United at the weekend, will face at least a year out of the game.

He underwent an operation last night at Hope Hospital, Salford, and faces more surgery tomorrow on the horrific injury that halted the match for nine minutes. He was said to be "comfortable".

Raymond Ross, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, said: "I

would say it will take a minimum of three months for the fracture to heal and it could be six." Bissett will stay in Hope Hospital, where a nail will be inserted in the bone early next week.

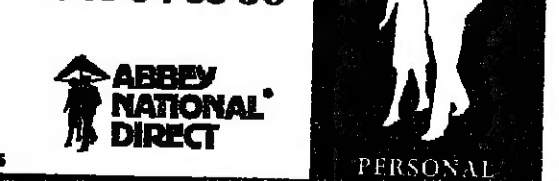
Mr Ross added: "He will go back to theatre tomorrow for further inspection. Although it is a serious injury, I am optimistic the fracture will heal spontaneously."

Dr Staifford, page 8  
Hope for Bissett, page 48

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Core states seek new mechanism

# Tory MPs press Clarke to resist 'son of ERM'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

KENNETH CLARKE was urged by Conservative MPs yesterday to stand firm against demands from Germany, France and Brussels for Britain to take part in a new exchange-rate mechanism.

The Chancellor is expected to please the Euro-sceptics by fighting pressure from other European Union finance ministers on Friday for a "son of ERM" to accommodate countries that do not go into the single currency planned to start in 1999.

The core single currency countries are pushing for an arrangement under which those outside the currency are subject to exchange-rate limits so that they cannot competitively devalue their money against the new euro.

There are even suggestions that refusal to enter a new ERM framework could result in trade and other sanctions being imposed on Britain.

Senior ministers and MPs rejected the idea as reflecting the "paranoia" of some in Europe about Britain's intentions. But Treasury sources emphasised Mr Clarke's determination to fight a new ERM when it is discussed at the meeting in Verona on

Friday. In a letter to the Italian Finance Minister, the Chancellor says that an old-style mechanism would create rigid exchange-rate links between those inside and outside a single currency. "Experience has shown that such systems cannot cope with times of major market stress and turbulence. The run-up to European monetary union and immediately afterwards could be such a time."

"For our part we see no case for a new ERM which would be almost bound to fail if it tried to encompass economies which were by definition non-convergent as defined by the treaty."

He says, however, that there will be a need for "alternative measures" to restrict the stresses and strains. Mr Clarke is understood to believe that other EU countries should adopt the Government's practice of setting inflation targets as a means of achieving stability.

David Howell, chairman of the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, accused the Franco-German alliance of being "obsessed" with the idea that Britain would indulge in competitive devaluation. "It's

imaginary paranoia. We did not deliberately leave the ERM. We were pushed out because our rate was too high. We would not deliberately devalue. We don't believe in it. We are not going to commit this sin which they are trying to punish us for."

He said the Europeans could not force Britain to join the new ERM as there was no obligation in any of the treaties. "The Chancellor should stick to his guns. We will pursue policies which support our interest and don't deliberately want to harm other countries who want to try to form an inner core," he said.

A leading sceptic, Nicholas Budgen, said that the Tory party would erupt if there was an attempt to rejoin the ERM. "Mr Clarke should just politely say no."

European finance ministers are to discuss how to link the proposed single currency with the currencies of European member states that do not join. France and Germany fear a series of competitive devaluations by countries who remain outside the single currency, which would make their exports cheaper and undermine the system. Britain retains the right to opt out of the single currency and the Government has said it will make a decision nearer the time and when the economic circumstances are clearer. Labour has said it would join the single currency only if there was convergence of the European economies over jobs on top of the Maastricht treaty criteria.

Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, played down suggestions of a new rift between Britain and other members. "Britain has a common interest with her partners in the system not being destabilised, because if it were that would harm Britain as much as it would anybody else," he said.

Bernard Connolly, page 15



David Howell, right, said EU states were obsessed, but Sir Leon Brittan denied suggestions of a rift



Patrick Dalzel-Job with a portrait of his wife, and, below, in wartime uniform

## Tribute to a war hero as brave as James Bond

By Adrian Lee

A FORMER naval officer who disobeyed orders to save the lives of 4,500 civilians in wartime Norway, and who is said to be the inspiration for James Bond, will be honoured tonight.

Sub Lieutenant Patrick Dalzel-Job risked a court martial when he commanded a fleet of fishing boats to evacuate an entire village shortly before it was destroyed in a bombing raid by the Germans. The action of the young officer was recognised by the Norwegians but widely ignored in Britain because of his disobedience.

Over three days and two nights, at the end of May 1940, every man, woman and child in the coastal village of Narvik was taken to safety on 100 boats. The village was virtually empty when waves of German bombers arrived the next day and razed the wooden houses to the ground in a reprisal attack. There were just four casualties.

Mr Dalzel-Job is now an 82-year-old widower who lives in Wester Ross, Highland. At the time he was 27

and knew the northern Norwegian coastline from his days, before the war, when he crewed a schooner, among the fjords.

Following the rescue operation he served with the author Ian Fleming in his undercover advance assault commando unit in occupied France and Germany. When Fleming published his Bond novels, former colleagues of Dalzel-Job immediately saw him as the model for the secret agent.

Mr Dalzel-Job, who married one of the Norvik survivors, was awarded one of Norway's highest honours, the Knights Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of St Olav (first class), by the late King Haakon VII. He believes his defiance cost him a sea-going command with the Royal Navy. Allied Command had forbidden him from using civilian craft to evacuate the village and only the intervention of the King helped the young officer escape a court martial. Speaking yesterday, Mr Dalzel-Job said: "I think I succeeded



because I had the trust of the skippers and because the movements were made to look like fishing trips. I discussed the plan with the mayor and we agreed that the civilians should be got out quickly because we knew that a German raid would come sooner rather than later — and that is exactly what happened. My commanders did not think the Germans were coming and I got the order that I was not to repeat not to utilise civilian craft. I was threatened with court martial but the Norwegian King wrote a very complimentary letter to my superiors — I think it embarrassed them."

Tonight he will be joined by survivors of the evacuation on the BBC's *Hearts of Gold* programme, when his exploits will be recalled with the use of previously unseen archive footage.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Murder police seek anonymous caller

A man has telephoned police anonymously with information that could identify the killer of Janet Brown, who was handcuffed and battered to death at her Buckinghamshire farmhouse a year ago today.

Detectives yesterday appealed for the caller to make contact again. They have never established a motive for the murder of the 51-year-old medical researcher, who was alone in her home in the village of Radnage, when her killer broke in through a window. Detective Superintendent Mike Short said that a man had twice rung police in February. "We are keen to hear from the caller again as soon as possible and he can contact us in the strictest confidence. I don't believe this is a hoax and I don't believe it is the killer himself."

At the time of the murder, Mrs Brown's husband, Graham, a research scientist, was working in Switzerland, where he still lives. Their elder daughter and son, Zara and Benedict, were away at university, while their 17-year-old daughter Roxanne was staying with friends.

## Dunblane date agreed

The judicial inquiry into the massacre at Dunblane Primary School last month, in which 16 children and their class teacher were shot dead, will take place in Stirling, five miles from the school, the Scottish Office announced. Lord Cullen, 60, a senior Scottish judge who carried out the investigation into the Piper Alpha disaster, will head the inquiry. The preliminary hearings will begin on May 1. Witnesses at the inquiry will be called to give evidence under oath.

## Drugs on earl's farm

A farm manager on Earl Waldegrave's estate at Chewton Mendip, Somerset, grew £75,000 worth of the strongest cannabis ever seized by police. Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday. John Lucksted cultivated 1,000 plants on land belonging to the earl, older brother of William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary. Mr Lucksted denies possession with intent to supply others but admits growing the plants for his own use, and five other charges. The trial continues.

## Walsall Left fields four

Left-wing Labour rebels in Walsall, West Midlands, are fielding four candidates in next month's local elections, defying attempts by the party nationally to end the embarrassing civil war inside the local group. The decision by four wards who support the rebels to put up candidates threatens to split the Labour vote and could even open the way for the Conservatives to become the largest united party on the council.

## Partner quit BBC deal

The Saudi-owned partner in the BBC Arabic Television channel said yesterday that it "unilaterally terminated" its contract because of the *Panorama* programme about Saudi Arabia broadcast last week. Orbit Communications said the programme was a "sneering and racist attack on Islamic law and culture". Orbit, which transmitted BBC Arabic Television to the Middle East, is owned by a group chaired by Prince Khalid bin Abdullah al-Saud, a cousin of King Fahd.

## Twins' murders linked

Police are treating as a double murder the deaths of identical twins found within days of each other in the Regent's Canal in Islington, north London. Medical tests carried out yesterday confirmed that Christopher Langford, 38, drowned after being beaten up. Police sources said that the killings were being linked because the head injuries matched those which killed his brother Anthony. They are believed to have died at the same time.

## Invention eats oil spills

A foam that can greatly improve the cleaning of coastlines after an oil tanker spill has been developed by a team at the University of York. It contains millions of oil-eating bacteria and nutrients, allowing the bugs to flourish. The foam, which is easy to ship to a disaster site, also dramatically increases the surface area of oil that comes under bacterial attack. The foam was tested during the recent *Sea Empress* disaster off Milford Haven.

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## Labour offers plan to defuse Ulster marches

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt

AN INDEPENDENT commission to advise the police on whether sensitive marches should be rerouted or banned is being proposed by the Labour leadership as a way of defusing tensions in Northern Ireland as the marching season gets under way.

A committee of experts who would consult community groups, the churches, marching organisations and the police is seen as a means of preventing the Royal Ulster Constabulary from being dragged into political controversy. The idea was put forward yesterday after a night of bloody clashes between police and loyalist demonstrators sparked fears of an escalation of violence which could threaten the peace process.

Ronnie Flanagan, the Deputy Chief Constable of the RUC, called on nationalists and unionists to compromise to avoid a repetition of the disturbances in Belfast. As seven men appeared in court charged in connection with the riot, Mr Flanagan appealed for common sense from the organisers of loyalist parades and from nationalists threatening counter demonstrations.

He said: "When people organise processions and protests, although they are not themselves responsible for the disorder, they have to realise the possible outcome of their action."

Labour's proposed committee would report to the RUC, which would have the final say. The party believes its verdicts would have wider public support if they were shown to have been taken after consulting wider interests.

Only the Northern Ireland Secretary can ban marches, but he or she would do so after listening to police advice. Marjorie Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said last night that the "microcosm of the problems of Northern Ireland". She said: "A small indepen-

dent body of advisers would give the RUC's decisions a strong moral authority and could help to ease a difficult position."

Mr Flanagan said that disputes during the marching season could not be resolved by the police alone and were a problem for society to tackle.

The violence broke out on the Ormeau Road, south Belfast, where police had banned a parade by the Apprentice Boys, most of the 3000 parades during the marching season, which lasts until the end of August, will pass off peacefully. However, police will be working hard over the coming weeks to avoid violence at other flashpoints.

David Ervine, leader of the Progressive Union Party, the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, said yesterday that the riot on Monday was "a spark" which could plunge Northern Ireland back into another 25 years of terrorism.

Maryn Smith, the Ulster Unionist MP for South Belfast and grandmaster of the Orange Order, accused police of making a "fatal mistake" in rerouting Monday's parade.

Labour is also calling on the Government to rebuild confidence in the peace process by publishing swiftly the ground rules for the inter-party negotiations about the future of Northern Ireland.

With the Commons preparing to rush through later this month the legislation paving the way for the May 30 elections, Labour is concerned that lack of details about the role of the new peace forum and the way the negotiations will be conducted is standing in the way of progress.

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Britain a 'gambling free-for-all'

# Lottery regulator accused of failing to protect young

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, ANDREW PIERCE AND STEWART TENDLER

THE National Lottery regulator has failed to perform its basic duty, to curb the worst gambling excesses of addicts and children, according to a report on the first year.

The independent Directory of Social Change, which provides research for voluntary organisations, says of Peter Davis: "He cannot help reminding us of a predecessor at the start of the last century, of whom a Select Committee reported: 'Mr Wood, the Inspector of Lotteries, has performed no duties and he has declared to your Committee that there do not appear to him to be any duties to perform.'"

Mr Davis is accused of failing to commission research to find out whether vulnerable people are buying scratchcards and are becoming addicted to them. He is also said to have done little to stop under 16s illegally buying tickets for the weekly draw.

"He is required not to license any game which will encourage persons to participate excessively in such lotteries. It is hard to see how he could meet this responsibility unless he arranged to find out whether such excessive participation was taking place," say the authors of *The National*



Davis said research by Oflot was continuing

*Lottery Yearbook*, published today with financial assistance from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. They add: "The Director of OFLOT has said: 'I will not tolerate the sale of lottery tickets to under 16s', but it appears that he is tolerating just that."

Camelot, the police and trading standards officers are currently arguing over who is responsible for investigating rogue traders who sell to children. A meeting of chief constables today is expected to agree that the police will not waste expensive manpower

watching shops for the relatively trivial offence of selling lottery slips and cards to children. Instead they will pass information to Camelot.

The report says: "Britain is now moving towards a gambling free-for-all which is unlikely to end without tears. In particular the much-criticised scratchcards, though turning out to be unnecessary to the success of the lottery, have spawned an unpleasant 'scratchcard culture' alongside the more acceptable weekly draw." Scratchcards are compared with hard gambling. Although sales of Camelot cards are declining, the authors believe that is due to the success of competitors.

Mr Davis said OFLOT had conducted research using four organisations and was paying for more on attitudes and children. "Most major national lotteries around the world combine on-line and instant [scratchcard] games," he said. "There is no evidence that scratchcards have caused excess participation or damaging social effects in the UK. Early indications are that average levels of spending are not dissimilar to those on the weekly draw game" — £2.63 per player per week.

Mr Davis resisted pressure to resign last year when it emerged he had taken free flights on a private jet and helicopter owned by GTECH, an American partner of Camelot, and stayed with one of its directors.

The Liberal Democrats, who passed a resolution at their last party conference to abolish the scratchcard, agreed with the broad thrust of the charity's report, edited by Luke Fittler. A spokeswoman said: "Research on scratchcards is virtually impossible because of the difficulties of monitoring their sales. We stand by our pledge to abolish them. They are addictive and open to abuse, especially by young people."

The Tory MP Sir Rhodes Boyson was concerned about the effects of scratchcards. "It is difficult to detect the true age of young people. While an under-age drinker is unlikely to kill themselves in one day, an under-age scratchcard player could bankrupt a family. There is a real fear that they are addictive. But I have no answers as to how they can be regulated."

Dr Lewis Moonie, a Labour heritage spokesman, urged the Government to commission urgent social research into the impact of the lottery. He also argued that it was premature to heap scorn on scratchcards.

Dr Moonie said: "It is obligatory on Government to see that proper social research is conducted into the effects of the lottery. It should already have been done. I do not blame the regulator for the absence of proper research. I blame the Government."



Staff preparing one of the mummies yesterday for display in the museum

## Wraps to come off museum mummies

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ONE of Britain's best collections of Egyptian mummies, which have been gathering dust for decades in the vaults of the National Museum of Scotland, are to go on display for the first time after DNA testing to discover their medical secrets.

The mummies, up to 4,000 years old and including three rare child mummies, will be examined over the next three days by a team of doctors, dentists and pathologists in what archaeologists believe will give the best understanding of Egyptian mummies to date. The public will be able to watch a number of the tests being performed.

Only two of the 11 mummies, which have been in the museum's collection since 1912, have been displayed publicly before. The museum yesterday launched a four-year research project into the mummies, which will be used as the basis of a new gallery of Egyptology.

The mummy collection at the National Museum in Edinburgh is of international importance. Two will soon go on loan to the British Museum and then on to the Louvre. Of particular significance are two three-year-old children, believed to be twins, who were interred in a double coffin. Twin burials were rare in ancient Egypt and the DNA testing hopes to establish whether they died at the same time.

## IN THE TIMES

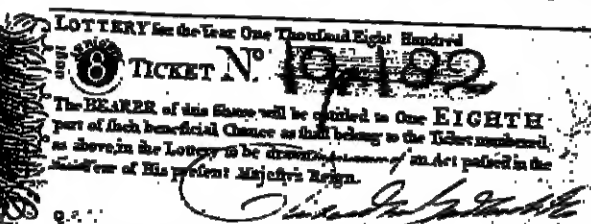


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Official tickets were shunned by many gamblers

## Betting fever led wives to tell tales

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE unfortunate Mr Wood, criticised for his performance as Inspector of Lotteries in 1808, was appointed and paid by the Government of George III at a time when gamblers sought to avoid the official "good causes" levy by buying cheaper tickets, or "insurances", from underground bookmakers.

There were no police, so the authorities relied on informers to report illegal gambling. Tongues were loosened by a reward equal to a third of the fine imposed by magistrates. The most eager informants were wives sneaking on their husbands.

The first national lottery was in 1596 to repair the Cinque Ports. The last, before last year, was in 1826.

A Select Committee in 1808 reported that as a result of lotteries, "idleness, dissipation and poverty are increased, the most sacred and confidential of trusts are be-

trayed, domestic comfort is destroyed, madhouses often created, crimes subjected the perpetrators of them to the punishment of death are committed, and even suicide itself is produced."

Everybody was suspected of involvement in the scam, including officials, but no evidence was produced to show that Mr Wood was a conspirator. Punishments included sending "rogues and vagabonds" to a House of Penal Servitude for six months, or until the draw was over. Between committal and trial, witnesses were tampered with or disappeared.

There were doubts about the economic logic of the lotteries, since the cost of parish relief rose to cover families impoverished by speculation. "No mode of raising money appears so burdensome, so pernicious, and so unproductive," the Select Committee reported.

## Thief who shot himself was double murderer

By PAUL WILKINSON AND STEWART TENDLER

A GUNMAN who shot himself after a failed gems raid was a psychopathic killer who faced life imprisonment for the murders of two Britons in Spain and Portugal, police said yesterday.

John William Holden was also a suspected bigamist with at least four wives in this country and others overseas. Known in the underworld as Big John, he was wanted on two Interpol warrants and sought in Britain for fleeing an armed robbery trial six years ago.

Portuguese police were hunting him for the death of Andrew Bonsier in October 1993 on the Algarve. Spanish police wanted him for the murder last July at Fuengirola of Gerald McDonald, 34, a Scotsman.

Yesterday Chief Inspector Ignacio Contreras, the Spanish detective searching for Holden, said: "I can't say I was sorry to hear of this man's demise. He was a timebomb. Wherever we pursued our inquiries, Holden spelt death and violence. Thank God he pressed the self-destruct button." He added: "He was a psychopath and an alcoholic. Drink brought out the killer instinct in him."

Holden killed himself with a



Holden: police want his wives to come forward

single round to the head last week after escaping from a jewellery shop in Hull when the owner raised the alarm. He was carrying an automatic handgun and 40 rounds of ammunition as well as a CS gas canister and a two-way radio. Unarmed police cornered him in the car park of a toy store after a chase in which he shot at pursuing officers.

Yesterday Michael Speakman, Assistant Chief Constable of Humberside Police, said: "Why he shot himself is a matter for the coroner. But I can certainly speculate it was to avoid a hefty prison sentence."

"We are extremely lucky

that people were not killed by him last Thursday. If he had decided to open up, there could have been another Dunblane and there was no reason why he should not have done — he had nothing to lose," he said.

Detective Superintendent Geoffrey Walker said that Holden had used false passports to travel the world, visiting the Philippines, Thailand, the Gulf and Europe. He said: "Holden is a bigamist who already has many wives, whom we wish to trace. We believe there could be more hiding in the woodwork."

Mr Walker said that Holden was known to have wives in Derby, Rhyll, his home town of Doncaster and Bridlington, and had at least two children in their 20s. He said: "He had gone through a form of marriage with several women but relatively little is known of his background."

Last night the father of the man Holden murdered in the Algarve said Holden's suicide had robbed his family of the revenge they desperately wanted.

Michael Bonsier, of Kenley, south London, said Andrew, his son, had been shot simply because he refused to give Holden information about security systems used by Group Four, his former employer.

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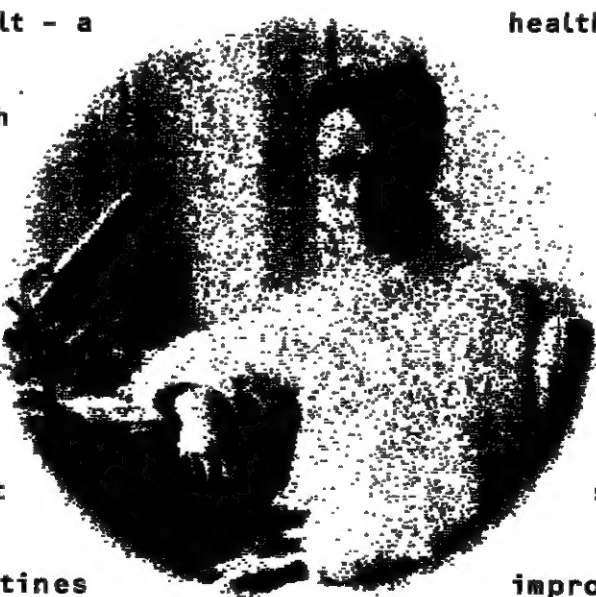
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# Serious Fraud Office investigates 'own a bird' scheme that promised rich returns

## Collapse of ostrich firm leaves investors in limbo

By Robert Miller, Karen Zagor and Michael Hornsby

THE Serious Fraud Office will launch an official investigation this week into the multi-million-pound collapse of the Ostrich Farming Corporation amid mounting concern from thousands of investors who thought they were backing the latest fashionable investment. People were persuaded to invest in the corporation, which used the funds to buy ostriches. In the past few months the birds have become very marketable because their meat has been seen as a healthy alternative to beef. It is now sold in Harrods and some Asda stores. Many schools have taken beef off their menus and are experimenting with ostrich burgers. Ostrich feathers sell for up to £400 per pound and can be used for theatrical costumes and non-static dusters while the hide is used for handbags. Investing in ostriches has captured the public imagination. The corporation's birds are kept at several locations in Belgium and the company said investors were buying their very own bird which would be identified by an electronic device. However, the SFO investigation is expected to centre on concerns that some of the ostriches were in fact owned by a number of investors rather than one. The firm has strongly denied any



Ostrich meat was seen as a healthy alternative to beef. Some schools are serving ostrich burgers

wrongdoing. An SFO team of senior lawyers, police officers and forensic accountants are studying files relating to the firm, which were handed over at a meeting last week with officials from the Department of Trade and Industry. Last Wednesday the department went to the High Court to ask for the firm to be wound up. The Official Receiver, whose job is "to protect and preserve the assets and financial records of the company", was appointed provisional liquidator until a full winding-up petition is heard on or before May 8. The firm has been the target of a number of unrelated investigations by consumer watchdogs. The Advertising Standards Authority is looking

into promises of exceptional investment profits in the company's advertising. The Securities and Investments Board, the chief City regulator, also investigated the firm but handed its findings on in the DTI. The board was particularly concerned over claims of a so-called guaranteed annual return of more than 50 per cent over five years. The senior City watchdog concluded that ostriches, like other animals, are not regarded as investments by the board. This means that companies promoting such schemes will not be covered by the official Investors Compensation Scheme in the event that the firm crashes. People who have put their money into

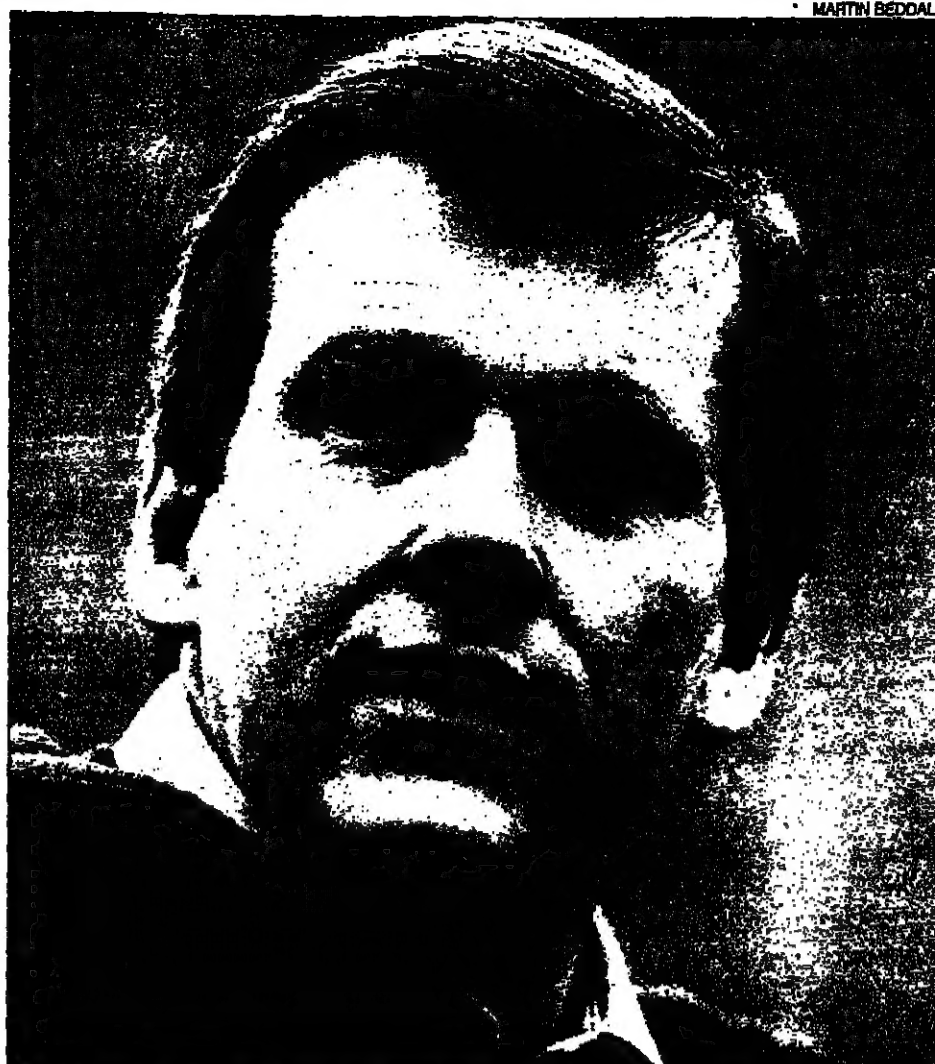
any such company therefore cannot expect to receive any payouts or help from the compensation scheme. The firm's headquarters are in Mansfield, Nottingham, although the ostriches are allegedly kept at several farms in Belgium.

Richard Wall, an investor from North Yorkshire, said: "It's all very well having guarantees that we own the birds, but that's only worth the paper it's written on." Another investor, Gary Holloway added: "I am worried sick."

Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director of Barclays Stockbrokers, examined claims made by the firm. He said: "I went through the return on investment figures that they produce and I could not agree their calculations based on industry standard figures on any occasion and I found this to be grossly misleading."

Mr Wall said he had been reassured by Brian Ketchell, the firm's managing director, that the birds were being well looked after. "Brian rang me, which backs my view that the guy isn't a villain. He just rang to say that everything is fine and that they will be reporting back to the owners when they can. But there is a limit to what they can say with the Receiver there."

Mr Ketchell's business acumen was under question in 1991 after Video Magic, a company that he ran, went into administration. There has



Richard Wall says his guarantees are worth only the paper they're written on

also been concern about his links with the Alchemy pyramid-selling scheme which was closed down by the DTI. He also employed Kevin Jones, Alchemy's former head, to market the ostrich firm. An investor who spent £20,000 to buy three birds in

the first stage of what was to have been a £42,000 investment said he wanted to preserve his anonymity. "I'm feeling foolish. My broker rang to rub the salt in today. When I first heard about it, I thought it was too good to be true, but the company was

plausible — the investment was supposedly protected because the birds are held in Belgium, believe the Official Receiver has been over in Belgium counting the birds, and there is some concern that the company allocated birds to more than one person."

## Bermuda banker is accused of £1.8m theft

By Stephen Farrell

A BRITISH banker has been arrested in Bermuda and charged with stealing £1.8 million from the island's second largest bank. David Diggins, 49, was arrested at Bermuda International Airport as he flew back from holiday in Britain.

Mr Diggins, senior manager of international credit and foreign loans at the Bank of Butterfield, appeared before Will Francis, Bermuda's senior magistrate, charged with stealing US\$2,512,000 and inducing a woman to deliver the money by pretending to have authorisation. He is also charged with falsifying a document with intent to defraud.

He was remanded on £40,000 bail and £80,000 sureties from friends. His passport was confiscated and he must report to a police station each morning.

Mr Diggins, from Hertfordshire, has not entered a formal plea but Julian Hall, his attorney, said he would "most certainly be denying" the charges. Mr Diggins, who is married with two children, arrived in Bermuda in September 1992. If convicted in the Supreme Court, he faces up to five years in jail.

Mr Hall added: "Quite frankly my client is mystified that the matter has gone this far this quickly, with so much damage to his reputation." The bank said that Mr Diggins was arrested after an internal investigation.

## Ski victim was off-piste in treacherous resort

By Oliver August

A BRITISH skier who died after falling nearly 900ft in the French Alps was a keen sportsman who lived life to the full, neighbours said yesterday.

Ceiwen Faulkner, 32, slipped as a guide was taking her and her husband Peter with three other skiers down a treacherous mountain path. They had been skiing off-piste at 6,800ft near the resort of La Grave.

The stretch where she fell was extremely steep and had become icy after the snow had melted. "Every season we have several bad accidents up there. It is inevitable. Thick snow gives way to ice and unexpected drops. Even in good weather skiers are putting themselves at great risk," a mountain rescue worker in La Grave said yesterday.

Antoine Sullivan, a neighbour of the Faulkners in

Highbury, north London, described them as a very friendly and happy couple. "They were wonderful people, very active and sporty. They were always off on some holiday or another; skiing, scuba diving and tennis," he said.

Mrs Faulkner's family arrived in La Grave yesterday morning to comfort her husband, at the Edelweiss Hotel, where the couple had stayed before. They were expected back in Britain last night.

The French police have opened an inquiry into the accident after being notified of Mrs Faulkner's death in the accident on Monday.

La Grave is regarded as a dangerous resort and skiers are advised to take a guide. There are no safety nets above its many crevasses and no marked pistes or safety patrols.

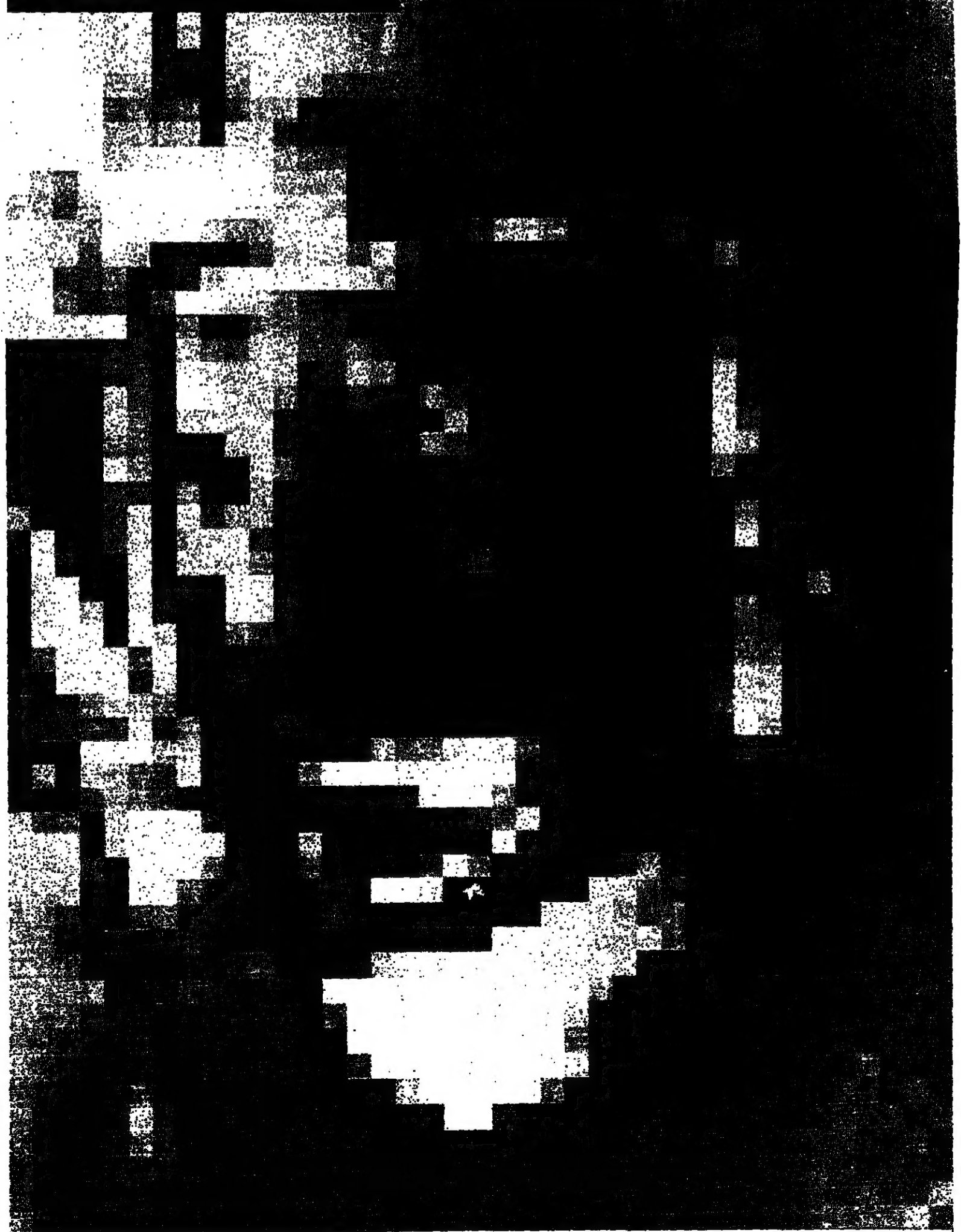
"It is an inhospitable place and has a reputation for being particularly dangerous," David

Hearn of the Ski Club of Great Britain said. The club recommends that skiers carry avalanche transceivers when skiing in La Grave. The small radio devices emit a continuous signal that helps to locate avalanche victims.

In January a member of the club died in La Grave after being caught in an avalanche. Monty Montague, 38, was an experienced skier and had been skiing with a French friend when treacherous conditions closed in.

The dangers of La Grave were highlighted last year when a round-the-world ski tour tragically ended in the resort. Lucy Dicker and Arnie Wilson had just achieved their ambition of travelling around the world skiing on every day for a year. They had travelled to 13 countries and covered 110,000 miles in 237 resorts without a serious injury. But French-born Miss Dicker, 41, died after falling on ice and hitting a rock wall.

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# Bargain hunters boost supermarket sales of sirloin

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BEEF sales are rising as fears of catching Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease subside, traders said yesterday. In Brussels today, European Union veterinary experts may approve a partial lifting of the global ban on British beef products, an EU spokesman said. The move is expected to be limited to declaring beef-derived gelatine safe.

The main impetus to the retail market in Britain has come from a surge in supermarket sales of cut-price beef. The wholesale trade

remains more sluggish because of large stocks of unsaleable beef overhanging the market.

Asda reported the most pronounced evidence of returning consumer confidence, with sales running at 50 per cent above normal during a week-long promotion of prime cuts of beef at one-third of the usual price. "We have been surprised by the strength of demand, especially for prime joints and steaks," a spokesman said. "Sales of sausages and mince, which many people associate with BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), have been much slower."

The promotion is now over, apart from sirloin steak which is still selling at about a third off. Obviously, we do not expect sales to continue at the level of the past week, but we feel strongly that confidence is returning. Customers seem to be reassured by our guarantee that all our beef comes from animals under 30 months of age.

Under a deal struck with other European Union countries in Luxembourg last week, no meat can be sold for human consumption from animals older than 30 months. Hardly any animals younger than this have ever developed BSE,

which has been linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Gelatine, used in a variety of products, was affected by the total ban on British beef exports imposed by the EU last month. Aspects of that ban are to be considered by the EU's Scientific Veterinary Committee. The World Health Organisation insists that gelatine poses no risk to humans.

The British Government will plead for an easing of the emergency measures. There is no question of the ban being lifted entirely, at least not before Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, has submitted

ted detailed plans for a selective slaughter policy, as he has agreed to do by the end of the month. Sainsbury yesterday reported sales running at about 80 per cent of what they were before March 20, the date on which Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, disclosed evidence of a possible link between "mad cow" disease and CJD.

However, at the Smithfield wholesale market, Tony Riley, of the superintendent's office, said: "Beef sales are still so low that at the moment we are not even bothering to quote prices." About 31,500 tonnes, worth £79 million, is

being held in abattoir chiller rooms and warehouses both here and abroad and on ships at sea because there is now no market for it, according to a survey by the Meat and Livestock Commission.

German politicians have demanded an end to Britain's rebate on contributions to the European Union, in view of the EU aid that London is receiving to compensate for the destruction of cattle over 30 months old. "This rebate can no longer be justified," the European policy spokeswoman of the opposition Social Democrat Party, Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul, said yesterday.

Erwin Huber, the Christian Social Union Finance Minister of Bavaria, had earlier complained that Germans were being asked to pay for a disaster which the British Government had partly brought upon itself.

At West Midlands slaughterhouse, selling horsemeat steaks at bargain prices, Bob Walker claimed to have sold 300lb of horse flesh to some 30 buyers yesterday, in a precinct in Smethwick. "It is very good value," he said, at the shop he has named Cheval Butchers. "I am selling the best cuts at no more than 80p a lb."

## Princess's fake kiss advert is censured

By A STAFF REPORTER

A COMPLAINT on behalf of the Queen about a faked photograph of the Princess of Wales kissing Paul Gascoigne has been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority.

The picture, based on the wedding-day kiss between the Princess and her husband on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, was used in newspaper advertising for the programme *Live Predictions*. The advertisement, for the programme *Who knows what the future holds?* Gascoigne was wearing a crazy grin.

Yesterday's report from the authority said that Charles Anson, the Queen's press secretary, complained that the advertisement was distasteful. He also objected to its use without permission from the Lord Chamberlain.

Kevin MacKenzie, managing director of Live TV and former Editor of *The Sun*, said: "This image was simply a piece of fun. I have no intention of withdrawing the advert. It is no longer right that they [the Royal Family] should be protected by this sort of arcane behaviour."

The report says: "The advertisers argued that, because the wedding photograph had been in the public domain for 15 years, their use of it was not an invasion of privacy. They believed the approach was humorous and not offensive."

The authority agreed that the approach was not offensive but nevertheless reminded the advertisers that references to members of the Royal Family in advertisements are not normally permitted: advertisers should consult the Lord Chamberlain's Office.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that it complained only rarely about misuse of royal images in British advertisements. The problem is greater abroad, where the authority has no jurisdiction.

## Union fears scheme may endanger primary staff and standards



Doug McAvoy yesterday, criticising delegates for rejecting reform of the union

## Teachers threaten to strike if nursery vouchers cost jobs

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

NURSERY teachers may be called out on strike if the Government's voucher scheme leads to cuts in their schools, the National Union of Teachers decided yesterday.

The conference gave unopposed backing to a motion threatening strikes if teachers' jobs are endangered or their working conditions worsened after the vouchers are introduced.

Trials of the £1,100 vouchers are to begin in Norfolk and three London boroughs next week, and the scheme is due to go national next year.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said the low value of the voucher could force nurseries and primary schools into economies. Industrial action could filter through to whole primary schools.

"Some local authorities might not be able to continue with nursery provision for three-year-olds, as well as possibly losing four-year-old nursery pupils," he said. "Job losses could be anywhere in a school. If it loses nursery places it could mean a school no longer being able to support the salaries of its primary teachers."

Anita Wright, from Wandsworth, one of the London boroughs piloting the scheme, said: "Vouchers are a tax concession to middle-class families who want private education. We also know they are there to motivate big business to build private nurseries and make a profit from something that should be provided free by the Government."

Linda Tassie, from Waltham Forest, east London, said the voucher system had to be stopped quickly. "The philosophy of the market is gradually creeping into schools. We are getting real privatisation."

Mr McAvoy later rounded on militant teachers who on Monday had thrown out reforms designed to give ordinary members more say in the union's affairs. The general secretary predicted that the reforms, which would require conference decisions to be confirmed by membership ballots, would soon be adopted by the union.

"This vote is not a rebuff of me or my views. The voice of the members will be heard and they will insist that their union listens to their views," he said.

After the conference Mr McAvoy said delegates would have to justify ignoring the views of members, who had voted overwhelmingly in favour of the reforms. "I do not believe the executive will want to keep from members of the union the decisions that were taken in their name. It is quite possible that the union will issue to members the breakdown of voting."

Will Reese, convenor of the Socialist Teachers Alliance, the leading far-left group at the conference, was unrepentant. "The alliance has always been in favour of encouraging the active involvement of all members in the affairs of the union, and we look forward to constructive dialogue as to how this can be achieved."

In his speech to delegates, Mr McAvoy said that the union would have to be more flexible if it was to be taken seriously by a future government. "If we appear obdurate and devoid of any willingness to consider new ideas, then we will forfeit any right to influence the actions of the next government."

Mr McAvoy said the greatest single advance for teachers would be the establishment of a single union to represent the profession.

## Maggots from infested pigeons fell on pupils' heads

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MAGGOTS fell on to the heads of children from the dilapidated ceiling of a Bedfordshire school, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers was told yesterday.

The problem persisted for several weeks until money was found for repairs at Ashton Middle School in Dunstable, a listed building, the

union's annual conference in Glasgow was told. Ray Mellor, a health and safety officer for the union in Bedfordshire, said the case highlighted the need for rigorous legal standards for school buildings. The conference resolved unanimously to campaign for the reinstatement of the 1981 School Premises Regulations, which were repealed by the Government earlier this year.

Mr Mellor told the conference: "Live maggots were falling from the ceiling on to the children. A dilapidated roof had allowed pigeons to get into the roof space. They couldn't escape so they died and the blue-bottles did their worst."

He added: "We were able to quote the School Buildings Regulations to the local authority and the school to bring about repairs. Now we could not. The regulations said the roof space had to be waterproof and it was not. Nor should the ceiling have had holes in it." However, the Department for Education and Employment said its circular, which would replace the regulations from September, retained a requirement for the health and safety of pupils to be "reasonably assured". School buildings will still have to "provide reasonable resistance" to rain, snow, wind and damp.

The conference also heard yesterday that violent and emotionally disturbed pupils should be segregated more strictly to raise standards in education. Nigel de Gruchy, the

general secretary, said the policy of integrating disruptive children into mainstream classes was creating havoc in schools.

Mr de Gruchy said: "We have cases where we authorise our members not to teach children arriving for their first day in nursery school because they are swearing and kicking teachers." He said schools spent too long trying to redress social problems when they should be concentrating on education.

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# Prognosis for injured footballer whose leg is his livelihood



David Busst leaving the pitch on Monday

THE graphic picture in *The Times* of the tackle that snapped David Busst's tibia and fibula and left the lower third of his leg hanging limply with the bones protruding showed that even the legs of a Premiership defender are vulnerable to an unfortunate combination of stresses and strains. The nature of the forces involved in a collision determines the pattern of any resultant fracture.

Mr Busst's fracture is described as compound, the technical term for an open fracture in which the broken ends of the bones have penetrated through the soft tissue, the muscle and the skin, and are left exposed to the air and possible infection. Compound fractures more commonly affect the bones of the lower third of the leg than any other bones in the body. The amount of pain felt by the victim is often intense, but is sometimes, surprisingly, not as great as expected, as the body produces its own opium-type drug, the endorphins, when injury is associated with drama and excitement. Years ago I was called to a road accident in Norfolk in which a farm worker had been thrown from his car. The bones of his leg were not only protruding through the skin but had also gone through his high, hobnailed boots. As I loaded my syringe with a hefty dose of morphine he smiled and said: "You



## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

don't have to bother with that, I hardly feel anything." The treatment of fractures of the lower third of the leg has changed over the past 30 years. Earlier many fractures of the shaft of the tibia were treated conservatively: the fracture was reduced so that the bones were well aligned, the leg was put in plaster and a prayer was offered that the

ends would unite. All too often union did not occur and, if it did, it was only after months of immobilisation. Later it was found that faster union was achieved if plates and screws joined the broken ends of the bones and held them in position. Now the tendency is to resort to internal fixation of the fracture by using a rod inserted

into the medulla of the bone. The medulla is a soft centre of a long bone, where the marrow is found. Surgeons have shown that after an intramedullary rod has been fitted, and screwed into position, the bones unite faster and the soft tissue heals more readily. Injury to the soft tissue often involves the blood vessels too. Possible arterial damage is always an important factor to consider in serious fractures of the tibia and fibula, such as Mr Busst sustained. For this reason it has been recommended that victims of these fractures should always be treated in a unit where orthopaedic and plastic surgeries can co-oper-

ate, as the blood supply to the limb has often to be repaired as well as the fracture fixed. In Mr Busst's case, as after all severe fractures, there is always a worry that the bone ends will fail to join. Likewise there is a danger, however carefully the wound has been cleaned and non-viable tissue removed, of infection: embolism, too, is a hazard either from small clots of blood or from little pieces of fat from the medulla. These emboli can be carried to the lungs. The use of intramedullary rods has increased the amount of fat emboli produced. Fortunately, few of the emboli are large enough to cause the sort of trouble which recently afflicted one

of the victims of the Dunblane shooting. If all goes well, Mr Busst will be disabled for about six months. A footballer's legs are precision machinery and nobody can yet predict whether his leg will ever be as good as it was. As one surgeon said: "Most people would just be relieved that they didn't have to have an amputation, as often happened in the past, and can look forward to having a serviceable leg, but it's quite different for a footballer. His right leg is his livelihood and his criteria of a good result will be very different from other people's."

Future for Busst, page 48

## Helpline opens to save doctors from drink and drugs

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Medical Association opened a 24-hour counselling service yesterday to help doctors to deal with stress and discourage them from turning to drugs or alcohol.

Seven out of ten general practitioners and hospital doctors surveyed by the BMA said they had suffered from work-related stress. Of those, 21 per cent had contemplated suicide and 4 per cent said they had misused drugs, probably tranquillisers or sleeping agents.

Nearly two out of five suffered a loss of libido, 70 per cent had trouble sleeping and nearly 35 per cent had physical illnesses including migraine, back pain, irritable bowel syndrome and peptic ulcers.

Steve Hajioff, of the BMA junior doctors' committee, said: "Clearly there is a significant sign of major psychiatric illness within the medical profession, which must be addressed by both employers and the Health Department as a matter of urgency."

"Suicidally depressed doctors do not deliver a good service to patients and do not deliver an efficient service."

The survey of 800 doctors by the BMA magazine *News Review* disclosed a deeply un-

happy profession. Almost one in nine believed that patients had been encouraged to make unreasonable demands and the same proportion said the profession faced greater stress at work than five years ago. Two thirds welcomed the idea of a doctors' counselling service.

Of those who had suffered from stress, 91 per cent said it was caused by work pressure and 70 per cent believed it adversely affected their work.

One doctor blamed stress for a stroke which left him temporarily paralysed and unable to speak. Another, who appeared to be a hard-working competent professional, had spent £20,000 on therapy while continuing to work. He estimated he was working a 70-hour week after a 300 per cent increase in referrals to his child and family psychiatry practice.

Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA, said: "A proper degree of stress is healthy and normal: without it many of us would not get out of bed in the morning. What concerns us is that the levels of stress that doctors have to face are excessive, and the causes are worrying. It is intolerable for doctors

to be told which patients to give priority to on the basis of where the money is."

"Added to this is the irresponsible way the Government has heightened expectations of patients, which has led to the so-called complaints culture. It doesn't guarantee higher standards, but it is the best guarantee of demoralising and alienating those who are doing their best in difficult circumstances."

Dr Macara blamed the Government's health reforms. "Almost 90 per cent of people perceived that their levels of stress were greater than five years ago. It is no coincidence that we are about to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the NHS reforms."

Mac Armstrong, secretary of the BMA, said of the high level of suicidal feelings: "This may be dramatic but doctors recognise suicidal thoughts as part of depression."

The General Medical Council issued guidelines in October 1995 encouraging doctors to blow the whistle on colleagues whose work might be affected by alcohol or drug abuse. Doctors should report colleagues to their employers or a regulatory body.



Fiona Cottam, from the virology department at St Thomas's Hospital in London, conducting an HIV retest

## Cleared patients seek second HIV test

THOUSANDS of people who have had Aids tests contacted clinics and surgeries reopening yesterday after the Easter holiday to find out whether they could have been given the wrong results. Up to 20,000 people have been tested for HIV with one type of kit which has occasionally shown negative for people known to be positive.

Aids charities brought in extra staff over the weekend to deal with worried callers. Susie Parsons, executive director of London Lighthouse, said its helpline took more than 6,000 calls.

The Terrence Higgins Trust said people should still have confidence in HIV testing techniques despite the discovery of a flaw in one type of kit. Nick Partridge, the chief executive, said: "The system is reliable and this incidence of error involves only a small number of people who have tested in a particular way and shown as negative when they were positive." The NHS has

been using the testing kit, made by Abbott Laboratories of Chicago, over the past six months. About two million kits were sold before the company withdrew them.

The Department of Health has estimated that 20,000 Abbott tests were carried out in Britain between September 27 and the end of March. A spokeswoman for the Public Health Laboratory Service said only two errors had been detected in this country.

## Medicinal gum patch delivers a quick cure

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

INSTEAD of swallowing pills, patients may soon be sticking them to the gum behind their top lip. The "Post-It Pill" delivers drugs directly to the bloodstream more efficiently than a skin patch, more easily than an injection and more reliably than swallowing.

A specially developed glue sticks a patch the size of a small tablet to the upper gum. Remaining in place for up to 24 hours, it delivers a steady supply of the active agent to the bloodstream in a pattern closer to the body's own rhythms. The patient can remove it any time, stopping the treatment.

So far the patch, called Cydot and developed by 3M Pharmaceuticals, has been tested with three drugs: melatonin to aid sleep in the elderly; buprenorphine for pain relief; and heparin, an anti-coagulant given to patients after blood loss.

The trials have shown that the patches can be worn without discomfort, and do not interfere with eating, drinking or sleeping. 3M Pharmaceuticals is working with a number of international pharmaceutical companies to develop new applications for the technology.

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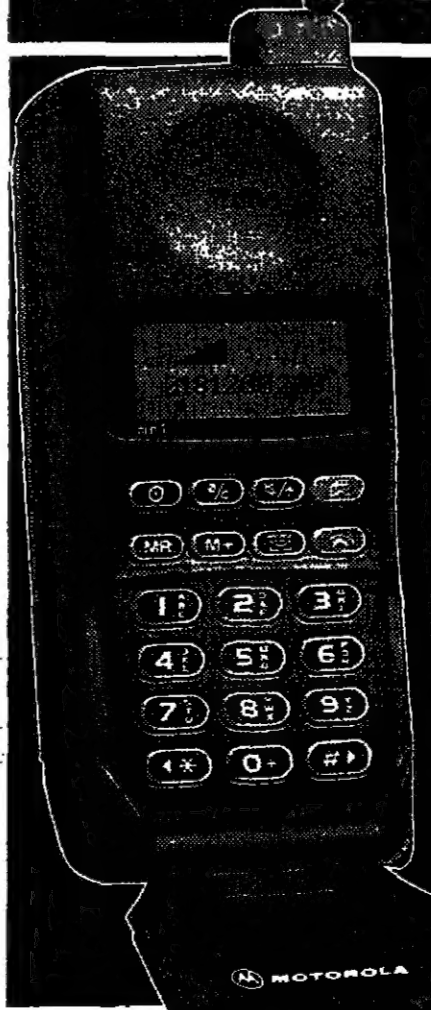


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Clarke's prediction of breakthrough in Staffordshire is undermined by missing 'feel-good' factor

## Tories ready to hail defeat by 5,000 votes as election success

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tories are backing away from Kenneth Clarke's confident forecast of victory in tomorrow's Staffordshire South East by-election and preparing to claim success if the party is defeated by only 5,000 votes.

Tory strategists admit privately that victory is slipping away from them but emphasise that a marginal defeat would indicate public opposition to the Government is falling. After a string of by-election defeats with swings against them of up to 30 per cent, campaigners believe that a swing of 10 per cent can be portrayed as a springboard from which to fight back at the general election.

Tony Blair dismissed the Tory strategy as cynical last night. The Labour leader's senior aides claimed that the Conservatives were attempt-

ing to dress up defeat as victory. In a seat with a 7,192 Tory majority, Conservatives have fought a higher profile campaign than in by-elections in which they have been routed over the past seven years. While campaigners insist that victory is conceivable if wavering Tories vote, they fear that the stay-at-home factor among the disaffected is likely to be critical.

The eve-of-poll mood contrasts with the Chancellor's bullish claims in the constituency last week that Jimmy James, the Tory candidate, was heading towards victory. Mr Clarke said: "I think Jimmy James should be the first beneficiary of the 'feel-good' factor coming back into the Midlands now."

Both main parties recognise that, even if the Tories are defeated, the scale will be

nothing like the 20,694 margin that Labour secured in nearby Dudley West in 1994. But Labour leaders underline that the Staffordshire seat, centred on the expanding and relatively prosperous town of Tamworth, is a solidly Conservative constituency in which a Tory defeat would effectively sound the death knell for a Government reduced to a Commons majority of one.

Mr Blair last night told a public meeting in Tamworth: "A Labour win on Thursday will show there are no no-go areas for new Labour. The Tories know this. They are terrified of losing this seat."

"If we win here, they will not be able to dismiss defeat as mid-term blues or a protest vote. They know that if we win here it will be the clearest sign yet that we are back as the party of the mainstream ma-



Fringe candidate Tony Samuelson, left, confronting Virginia Bottomley and Conservative candidate Jimmy James before being arrested

jority." At a separate public meeting, Michael Heseltine said a Labour government could ruin the prosperity created by the Conservatives.

On the fourth anniversary of his party's general election victory, the Deputy Prime Minister conceded that there

had been unpopular decisions in recent years, especially over raising taxes. "They may at the time have been unpopular decisions. The Conservative Party is not by nature a tax-raising party. But they were the right decisions to ensure that we managed the public

finances effectively and properly funded the public services that look after the old, the sick and the vulnerable."

A fringe candidate was arrested by police yesterday when he tried to address Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, as she visited

the constituency. Tony Samuelson, 66, standing for the Daily Loonylugs Party, was held for breach of the peace at Drayton Manor Park.

Mr Samuelson, who opposes the Conservative Party accepting donations from tobacco companies, shouted:

"Where are you, Mrs Bottomley? I want to speak to you." He was later released without charge.

General election 1992: D. L. Lightbown (C) 29,180; B. Jenkins (Lab) 21,988; N. Penlington (Lib Dem) 5,540; majority 7,192.

## Trust Labour, Blair to tell US investors

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

A Labour government will complete the unfinished agenda of Thatcherism, Tony Blair will tell bankers and businessmen in New York when he arrives in America later today on a three-day trip to raise his international profile.

Mr Blair's visit, his first to America since he became Labour leader in July 1994, is intended both to strengthen his foreign policy credentials and to offer reassurance to overseas investors that Labour has changed its attitude to business since the 1970s and 1980s.

In a speech to the British-American Chamber of Commerce tomorrow, Mr Blair will argue that a Labour government would welcome international investment and would strongly oppose protectionist measures. His theme will be that there will be continuity in policies towards business, as well as change to improve long-term industrial performance.

Labour will seek to build on Thatcherism, not try to reverse it, he will say. The Thatcher Governments did two things right, he will argue: reviving a spirit of enterprise and creating a legal framework for the operations of trade unions. But they failed to reform welfare, to get government and industry working together or to transform education, training and skills.

Consequently, reform of welfare and of education and training would be priorities for a Labour government. Mr Blair will argue that a closer partnership between government and industry would not mean a return to the days of the corporate state and trade union influence over government policies.

Mr Blair will argue that the healthiest relationship between America and Britain is one where London has strong influence in Brussels and within the European Union.

In New York, Mr Blair will meet business and publishing leaders and make his main speech of the trip. In Washington he will meet President

Clinton, Vice-President Gore, other prominent Democrats and media stars. Some details of the programme may have to be revised in view of the funeral today of Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, who was killed in a plane crash in Croatia last week. Other funerals of those killed will be later in the week.

For the British audience, the aim is to boost Mr Blair's international credibility, showing him addressing large business audiences, being feted by leading Democrats and on friendly terms with the American President. The British media will, however, also be concerned with tomorrow's by-election in Staffordshire South East, but Labour is confident that the impact of the trip will be enhanced rather than undermined by a big victory there.

Mr Blair has already become better known in America, through extensive advance publicity. After a profile of Mr Blair in *The New Yorker* earlier this year, there were interviews or profiles over last weekend in several newspapers and featuring profiles in *People* and *Business Week* magazines. Mr Blair is due to meet senior newspaper editors and be interviewed on network television.

The meeting with Mr Clinton on Friday morning will largely be a courtesy, accorded to the main opposition leaders of all Western democracies. The two were said by advisers to have got on well during their only lengthy talk in London, in late November, when they discussed the prospects for centre-left parties.

There is none of the anxiety on the Labour leader's side which preceded both the visits to Washington by Neil Kinnock. The first, in March 1987, was a public relations disaster as the Reagan White House treated him brusquely. In July 1990, elaborate precautions were taken to ensure that the visit to President Bush went smoothly, if blandly.

PETER RIDDELL

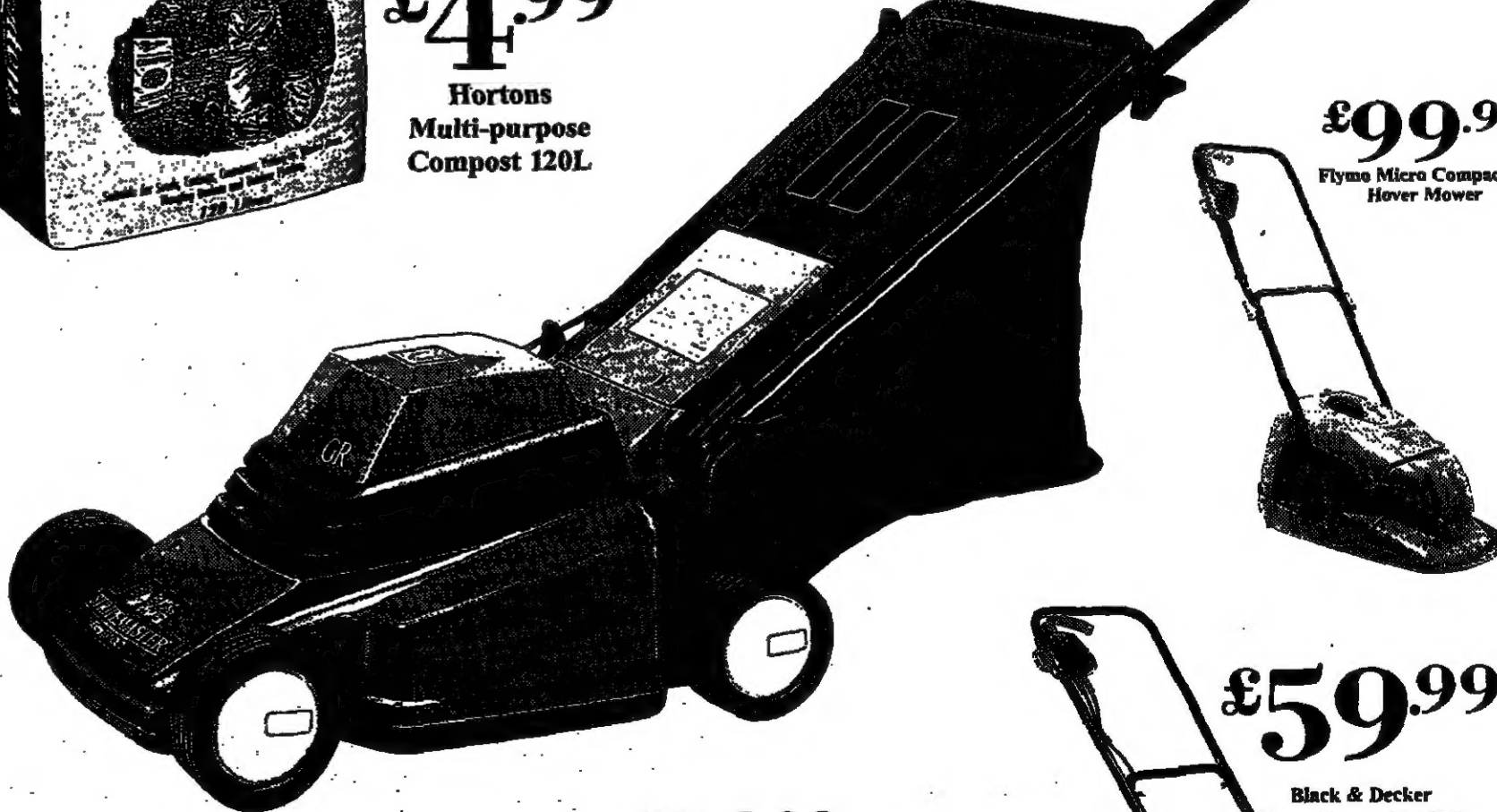
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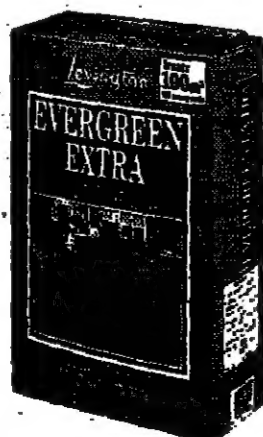
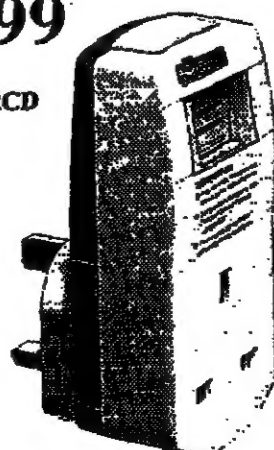


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# Ayckbourn stages a dream come true in house of cards

■ Scarborough's £5.2 million theatre has been 30 years in the making. Paul Wilkinson met the playwright who was determined to fulfil the ultimate ambition of his dying mentor

ALAN AYCKBOURN vividly remembers the time 30 years ago when he sat at the bedside of his dying mentor Stephen Joseph, cutting up pieces of card to shape their dream theatre.

This month the dream becomes reality when the playwright opens the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough. The £5.2 million project in the North Yorkshire resort is the high point of an unlikely connection between the town and the stage which began in the 1950s when Joseph, a theatre iconoclast, introduced holiday-makers to what was then an avant-garde notion of putting the stage in the centre of the audience. What began as an auditorium in a flock wall-papered concert hall above the town library has evolved into a state-of-the-art complex.

"Stephen would be thrilled by all this," said Ayckbourn as technicians scurried about the converted 1930s art deco Odeon cinema. The building now contains a 400-seat in-the-round theatre and a 165-seat end stage which doubles as a cinema, as well as bars, a restaurant, and a drama bookshop.

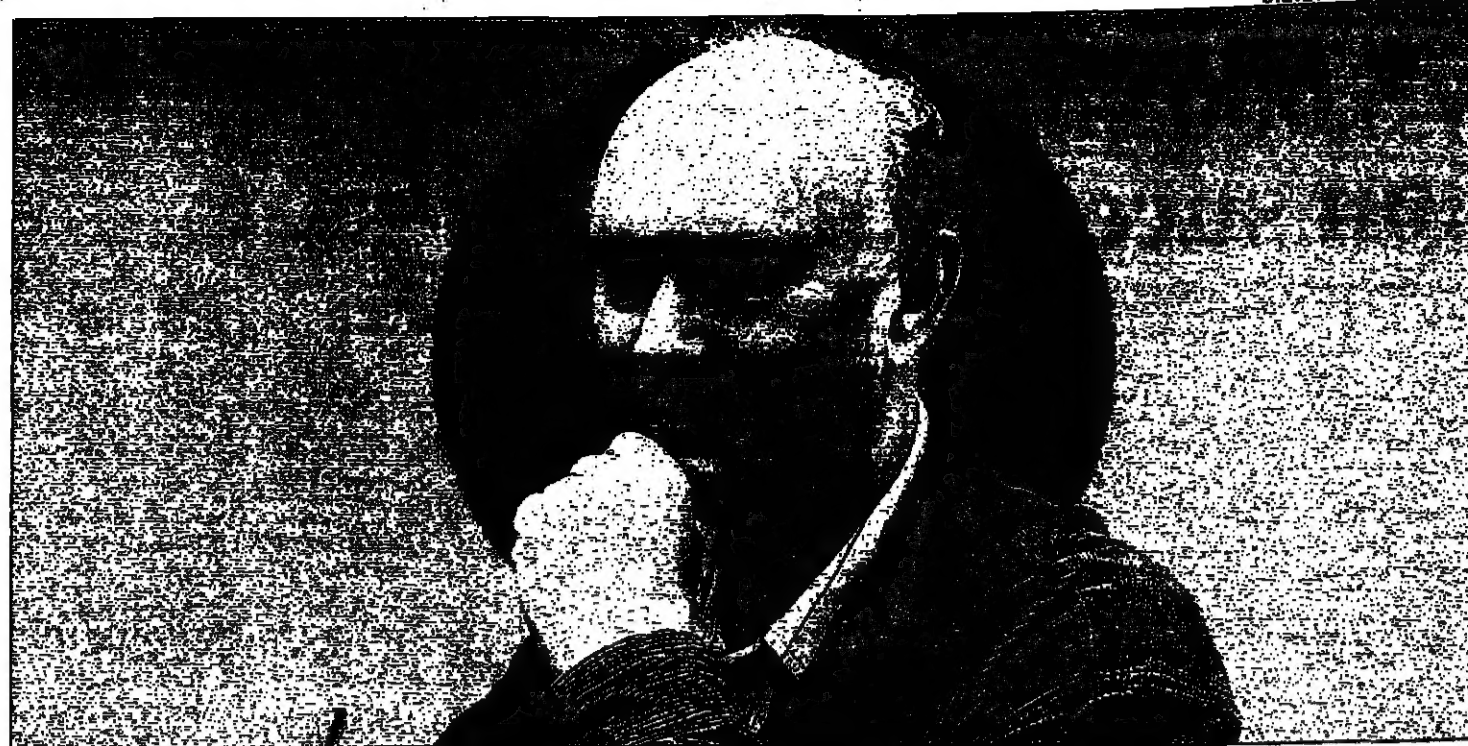
Ayckbourn, who lives in Joseph's magnificent old house over-

looking Scarborough Harbour, said: "He had an incredible influence on me but so few people know of him now. Young actors ask me who he was, yet he left this enormous legacy. There are open stages across the country as a result of this extraordinary man in a beanie hat, leather trousers and large boots, who was the scourge of the theatre establishment. He was hated by them. Ken Tynan loathed him. He presented a threat."

"I remember letters Joseph wrote to the papers when he said everyone ought to be Communists, which was then the most awful word you could call anyone. He said he didn't want to play the National Anthem at the end of the show. After that act of blasphemy I was trembling with excitement but he was absolutely right."

Joseph, the son of the actress Hermione Gingold and the publisher Michael Joseph, was a charismatic figure whose enthusiasm infected everyone who met him.

His death from cancer in 1967, at the age 39, set in motion a chain of events which ensured his ideas came to fruition. Ayckbourn, who



Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round  
SCARBOROUGH

Alan Ayckbourn: "Our unlikely location is nice." The new theatre, above

the stage instead of swinging dangerously from ladders.

"It is such a simple thing," said Ayckbourn. "Everyone wants to come and see it. The whole Cottesloe team from the National booked a coach to come up." Ayckbourn has put £400,000 of his own money into the scheme. There has been a £1.5 million handout from the National Lottery and donations of pound coins from local pensioners.

Ayckbourn is not daunted by the isolation of Scarborough from the rest of the theatre world. "We used to be out on a limb, but I don't know any more. Our unlikely location is rather nice."

had left his job as a stage manager for the BBC in Leeds, returned as artistic director and found a ready outlet for his burgeoning talents as a playwright. He said: "I inherited a theatre by default, and it was only later I realised I had fallen on my feet. I had this wonderful clear road to a writing career. There was

no middle man telling me it was not suitable."

It is now an unwritten rule that all his plays are premiered in Scarborough. In 1976, the theatre moved to larger premises in a converted school, but when Rank closed its town centre cinema in 1992 Ayckbourn realised the op-

portunity had arrived to assemble those pieces of card he and Joseph had so often shuffled.

"As far as I am concerned, this is our final resting place, not just for the rest of my time here but, if we make the right decisions, for future generations. The result is very exciting. It is as near as I can

dream of having it right."

The stage is hydraulically controlled so that it can be lowered to below-auditorium level where pre-assembled sets can be pushed into place. There is also the first lighting rig of its type in the country, where electricians can set lights from a mesh suspended over

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### Hi-fi potato tweeters on edge of new era in sound

By NICK NUTTALL

GOLF tees, pens and parts of stereo systems will soon be made from potato, researchers said yesterday.

British scientists have genetically engineered tubers to produce new types of starch that can be turned into environmentally friendly plastics. The research has also developed substances for thickening or texturing foods, including an alternative to gelatin, a subject of concern over BSE.

Dr Alison Smith, of the John Innes Centre in Norwich, whose research is funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, said yesterday: "One of these starches forms a strong gel when cooked and could substitute for gelatin."

"At the moment it is not quite as gummy as jelly babies, but it is perfectly possible to make starch gels for sweets."

Dr Smith added: "Petroleum, from which plastics are made, comes from a finite resource. In contrast potatoes are a renewable resource. Starch-based plastics are also in general biodegradable."

The starches are expected to be on the North American market next year.

### Attempt to save pilot beset by problems

By A STAFF REPORTER

AIRLINE crew and medical staff fighting to save a captain who collapsed during a holiday flight ran into a series of problems, according to the official report on the incident.

Roger Attenborough slumped unconscious as he prepared to land a 220-passenger Britannia Airways Boeing 757 at Malaga airport in southern Spain on January 28. His co-pilot managed to land the aircraft safely, but Captain Attenborough, a 54-year-old father of two, was declared dead at a local hospital.

An Air Accident Investigation Branch inquiry found that a nurse summoned from her passenger seat could not be strapped into the jump seat to attend to the captain, while the position of his seat made it impossible for her to get into the left observer's seat.

Having declared an emergency, the co-pilot could not land first time because the approach he was given triggered off a ground proximity warning system alert. When the plane was able to land, a waiting paramedic could not board for two or three minutes as the steps had not arrived.

The report said the captain "died during or shortly after the flight."

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Scientists believe galaxy could be full of unseen stars up to 60 times the size of Jupiter

## Brown dwarf find advances theory of missing mass

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE elusive brown dwarf, pursued by astronomers for decades, has been found living quietly on its own in the Milky Way.

Too big to be a planet but too small to be a star, the brown dwarf is the star that fails to glitter. But it could help to solve one of the great mysteries of cosmology if it proves to be abundant enough to account for the "missing mass", which astronomers are certain exists in the universe but which they have been unable to identify.

At the National Astronomy Meeting in Liverpool today, Dr Mike Hawkins of the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh will describe observations of six brown dwarfs.

Four of the stars are within 150 light years of the Sun, which makes them local in astronomical terms. Unlike brown dwarfs that have been identified previously, they are not part of binary systems or clusters, but sit alone and palely loiter among the ordinary stars of the Milky Way.

Brown dwarfs are objects that may be 60 times as big as the planet Jupiter, but only

one-fifteenth the mass of the Sun. They are too cool to set off the nuclear reactions that make the Sun and other stars of its type so hot and bright.

Dr Hawkins and Dr Hugh Jones of Liverpool John Moores University have studied images taken by a British telescope in Australia and analysed in Edinburgh using Cosmos, a computerised system for studying images of the sky. They were looking for objects that appeared red, the signature of small, failed stars. Using the computer, they laid 100 images of the same area of sky on top of one another and the stars that had been invisible on the individual images slowly emerged. They red images could be seen moving against the background of more distant stars. The fact that they are apparently moving gives the clue that they must be close.

With the help of astronomers from Bordeaux Observatory, the distances were measured by using the amount of motion as a guide. They showed that of the six brown dwarfs identified, four are located among the stars of the Milky Way. This means

that they can be only brown dwarfs, because regular stars cannot be this faint. Dr Hawkins says that they shine 100,000 times more dimly than the Sun.

"It was a fantastic feeling to watch the stars gradually appearing out of the blackness," he said. "In the end it all seemed too simple, just laying the images on one another, but sometimes the simple plans work best."

The discovery of four brown dwarfs in our own backyard, so to speak, suggests that there may be many more both in our galaxy and in others. If so, they could account for a substantial fraction of the missing mass known to be present in galaxies but currently undetectable.

Dr Hawkins said: "I am confident in saying these are the first bona fide brown dwarfs to be found. It seems natural now to assume the entire galaxy will be filled with these stars, and there must be one far closer to Earth, possibly within one light year. Now we may soon be able to work out what missing matter really is, and the importance of that is huge."



In the last seconds of its descent on to Titan, the Huygens Probe should offer unprecedented views of Saturn

## Amphibious probe to unlock mysteries of Saturn's giant moon

By NIGEL HAWKES

A PROBE designed to splash, or crash, on to the surface of Saturn's largest moon is being assembled for launch next year.

The Huygens Probe is aimed at Titan, one of the most intriguing objects in the solar system. Astronomers believe that Titan may have oceans

filled with liquid methane, swept by huge waves and with methane icebergs floating around. But the surface is swathed in a thick orange fog, obscuring what lies below.

Dr John Zarnecki, of the University of Kent, told the National Astronomy Meeting in Liverpool yesterday that there was no means of knowing where the probe would

land, so it had to be designed to work on dry land or on the surface of the ocean. His team has designed the Surface Science Package, one of six instruments to be carried by Huygens, which will parachute to the surface early next century after being released from the Cassini orbiter.

Huygens is designed to touch down on Titan at a

speed of about 20mph. The package will operate during the 2½-hour descent and for about half an hour thereafter. One of the things it will measure is the amount of "bounce" should it land on terra firma, since that can reveal a lot about the nature of the terrain.

It will also measure temperature and conductivity,

and a sonar will plumb the depths of the oceans should the arrival be wet. Measurements of the refractive index of any liquid it encounters will give a clear idea what it is, as will measurements of the speed of sound.

What Dr Zarnecki calls an electronic spirit level will measure tilt, which could be interesting if the probe is floating. Titan's gravity is 15 per cent of Earth's and, with the expected strong winds, there could be huge waves.

Astronomers believe that Titan's temperature is about -170C, close to the temperature where liquid, gaseous and solid methane can coexist. This means that there may be

methane icebergs floating on the oceans.

Titan is a huge moon, larger than Mercury, and was first discovered by the astronomer Christian Huygens in 1655. The probe is a project of the European Space Agency and is due for launch aboard the American Cassini spacecraft in October next year. It will take nearly seven years to reach Saturn, with the help of gravity "assist" from Venus (twice), Earth and Jupiter.

Huygens is expected to be released by Cassini on November 6, 2004, and will enter Titan's atmosphere later that month. Once it lands, it will have 30 minutes to send information to the orbiter

before it is overcome by falling batteries, the bitter cold, impact damage or the orbiter disappearing over the horizon.

The success of the American Galileo mission to Jupiter, which took almost as long, reassures the astronomers that the instruments will work for seven years. Further tests are planned before it is launched to ensure that it can withstand the shocks of space-flight and the cold.

"We don't have an absolute guarantee that it will survive the landing," Dr Zarnecki admits, but a flight test in northern Sweden last year worked well. The probe was intact after landing and transmitted data successfully.

## NHS pays for sister's surrogacy

The sister of a woman born without a womb has been accepted by the NHS as a surrogate mother. Treatment has started on both women, who approached doctors five months ago, according to a support group.

The news came as details emerged of Britain's first baby born to a stand-in mother on the NHS. Jack Wells, who is almost two, was born after York District Health Authority paid £5,000 to implant his mother's eggs into a surrogate.

## Scots calling falls

The number of people applying to become ministers in the Church of Scotland has fallen by 30 per cent, from 108 in 1994 to 76 last year. Candidates accepted for the Presbyterian ministry fell from 161 in 1993 to 129 in 1994 and 105 last year.

## Dog savages boy

A six-year-old boy will have to undergo plastic surgery after his nose was nearly ripped off by a bull mastiff near his home in Billinge, Merseyside. Marlon Aker had the nose stitched back on at Whiston hospital and the dog has been destroyed.

## Police chief quits

Sir Ron Hadfield, Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, is to retire in July. Sir Ron, 56, head of the largest regional force in England for six years, recently called for the start of trials of CS spray and the introduction of national identity cards.

## Legal go-ahead

The widow of a lung cancer victim was cleared to continue her test case against Imperial Tobacco. The Court of Session, Edinburgh, rejected the firm's demand for £2 million costs now from Margaret McTear, of Beith.

## Bottom brief

Police searching for a man found him naked in an airing cupboard after he cried out when he burst his bottom on the boiler. The man, 33, from Southampton, received hospital treatment after being bailed by magistrates.

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Former Italian premier in court

# Andreotti goes on trial for ordering death of journalist

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN PERUGIA

THE MURDER trial of Giulio Andreotti, the former Italian Prime Minister, begins tomorrow in a fortified courtroom near this picturesque Umbrian hilltop town.

The trial is without precedent in the industrialised world for the gravity of the charge and the eminence of the defendant, who was seven times Prime Minister, and probably the best-known face of Italy on the international stage in the past half century. If he was not having to defend himself against charges of murder and involvement with the Mafia, the 77-year-old former Christian Democrat might still be playing the role of elder statesman in Italian politics.

Signor Andreotti is accused of having ordered the murder of Mino Pecorelli, a journalist and editor of *Osservatore Politico*, a well-informed if sometimes scurrilous weekly magazine. Pecorelli was shot dead in a Rome street on March 20, 1979. Prosecutors in Perugia say the killing stopped him carrying out a threat to publish damaging information about Signor Andreotti that might have caused serious harm to his political career. Signor Andreotti became Prime Minister three days after Pecorelli's death.

The trial is a result of the evidence of Tommaso Buscetta, the Mafia supergrass who claimed in 1992 that Pecorelli had been killed by the Mafia as a favour to Signor Andreotti. Signor Buscetta, the best known of Italy's Mafia turncoats, told magistrates that Pecorelli had been eliminated because he was threatening to divulge secrets concerning the Red Brigades' kidnapping and murder the previous year of Signor Andreotti's party colleague Aldo Moro. However, his evidence is hearsay: he claims to have received the information from the two Mafia bosses who allegedly commissioned the assassination.

Accused with Signor Andreotti is Gaetano Badalamenti, the only surviving source of Signor Buscetta's information, who is in an American prison but has expressed a desire to attend the trial.

Also charged are Giuseppe Cole, who worked for the Cosa Nostra in Rome, Claudio Vitalone, a former Rome magistrate and close political associate of Signor Andreotti's, and the two alleged assassins, a Mafioso from Palermo named Michelangelo La Barbera and Massimo Caminati, a right-wing extremist with strong links to the Rome underworld.

The case was moved from Rome to Perugia, which is responsible for investigating offences by Rome magistrates, after a member of a Rome

crime gang accused Signor Vitalone of having a role in the commissioning of the murder.

Perugia prosecutors say Signor Buscetta's allegations have been backed up by the evidence of other Mafia members and by gangsters from Rome. They say the motive for the journalist's murder lay in information he had obtained about the Moro kidnapping and about a financial relationship between Signor Andreotti and Nino Rovelli, an industrialist and leading contributor to Christian Democrat Party funds.

The two elements are linked in a document written by Moro during his 55 days as a hostage of the Red Brigades in which he levelled fierce criticism at Signor Andreotti, in particular for his contacts with controversial figures from the financial world.

Pecorelli's account of the Moro kidnapping was itself unusual. He described it as bearing "the hallmark of a lucid superpower" and said it was intended to prevent the Communist Party from taking the final step "into a direct participation in the government of the country".

Several Mafia witnesses have alleged that Christian Democrat leaders acted to block negotiations that might have led to Moro's release. The case still overshadows Italian political life.

Fausto Cardella, 46, one of the two Perugia prosecutors, said: "We are going to court to see whether the evidence is convincing or not. Andreotti is the Italian politician who is best known abroad but he has been treated in exactly the same way as if his name was Mario Rossi."

Signor Andreotti's lawyer, Franco Coppi, is convinced of his client's innocence and confident he will be able to demonstrate it in court. "We don't want to approach this trial by talking about the manifest absurdity of the charge. We will pretend to take it seriously," he said.



Andreotti: best known of Italian political leaders



Moro: wrote critically of Andreotti while hostage



The storm off Balaclava in November 1854 in which about 30 British ships sank with the loss of many lives

## Crimean site yields 'British graves'

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

ONE hundred and forty years after the end of the Crimean War, a hillside outside Sebastopol has yielded an undiscovered graveyard that may be the last resting place of shipwrecked British sailors.

The makeshift cemetery, consisting of about 120 graves containing simple wooden coffins, was found last month by local archaeologists on the coast of Cossack Bay on the Kherson peninsula, south-west of Sebastopol, in Ukraine. Yuri Breslavsky, the head of the team, said they

had uncovered nine rows with about fifteen graves in each. Inside the trenches were foreign-made bone and brass buttons and fragments of toothbrushes. He thought it likely the dead were sailors and probably British. "If it had been land infantry we would have expected to find weapons," he said.

The find is a highly unusual one for the Crimea, where most battlefields have already been excavated. The British Embassy in Kiev said if the dead did turn out to be

British, there would be official help for what would be the first reburial ceremony in modern times for Crimean War dead.

Mr Breslavsky hopes to pin down the identities of the bodies when his team digs again at the site later this month. But he speculated that the dead might be victims of the famous storm off the Crimean coast on November 14, 1854. His judgment was endorsed by Andrew Sewell of the Crimean War Research Society. "It sounds plausible

on the face of it that these newly discovered graves would be English sailors or members of the marine brigade, who were based on board the ships," he said.

The storm could not have happened at a worse time for the British fleet, which had put to sea from its cramped harbour at Balaclava after the disaster of the battle of October 25, 1854, famous for the Charge of the Light Brigade. The fleet was devastated by the high winds and about 30 ships went down.

## Chernobyl tornado 'spread thyroid cancer'

FROM CAROLINE DREES IN VIENNA

THE Chernobyl catastrophe caused a sharp rise in thyroid cancers and may be linked to leukaemia among workers cleaning up the radioactive fallout, experts told a conference on the world's worst nuclear accident yesterday.

Ten years after a fire and blast at the nuclear plant spewed radiation over much of Europe, 700 delegates, politicians and nuclear experts from around the globe met in Vienna to discuss the long-term impacts of the disaster.

"The Chernobyl incident resulted in a significant increase in thyroid

cancers," said Anatoly Tsyb, of Russia's Medical Radiological Research Centre. A possible link between the fallout and a spate of leukaemias among clean-up workers was particularly worrying.

Leaders from Belarusia, Russia and Ukraine painted a grim picture of the shattered lives and environmental chaos in their countries caused by the Chernobyl explosion on April 26, 1986.

The speakers from the three former Soviet republics most affected by the accident emphasised that cash and technical aid were needed urgently to ease the suffering of thousands of

people in contaminated areas. President Lukashenko of Belarusia said his country had to spend a quarter of its annual budget on dealing with a "radioactive tornado never seen before". About 70 per cent of the fallout was deposited on Belarusia.

The estimated total radioactivity from the blast was 200 times more than that from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said.

The WHO is co-sponsoring the conference with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency

and the European Commission. The four-day conference opened with a minute's silence for past, present and future victims of Chernobyl.

Experts at the meeting said that about 54,000 square miles — about the size of Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands and Switzerland combined — were contaminated.

"The future health effects will be mostly related to children, and psychological issues will remain in the forefront," Professor Fred Mettler, who led an international health assessment team to Chernobyl in 1990, said. (Reuter)

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR



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**RAC**



# Dudayev calls for talks with Yeltsin

FROM RICHARD BARNES IN MOSCOW

CHENNAI, India, April 9 — Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has called for talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to end the conflict in the North Caucasus region.

# French 'curb rights protest in hope of £1bn Peking deal'

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRANCE was yesterday accused of putting money ahead of human rights as it rolled out the red carpet for Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, who began a four-day state visit.

Three weeks after China's military exercises off Taiwan, the French authorities are hoping to exploit the sharp cooling in Sino-American relations to conclude a series of deals with Mr Li.

The Chinese Prime Minister will meet his French counterpart, Alain Juppé, today and President Chirac tomorrow.

Opposition Socialist Party leaders said the Gaullist-led administration had hushed up abuses in China in an attempt to appease Peking. Human rights organisations have been told they cannot demonstrate outside the Chinese Embassy. Instead they will hold a protest a few hundred yards away at the Trocadero square this evening.

Laurent Fabius, the former Socialist Prime Minister, accused the Government of "putting its flag in its pocket". In an article in *Le Monde*, several senior civil servants, whose identities were not disclosed, also criticised the visit.

To invite Mr Li to Paris is to commit a political error and a moral fault at the same time," wrote Mr Li on having massaged students (at Tiananmen Square) in order to sell China a third nuclear power station or some Airbus planes.

The French business community, however, is unlikely to see things in the same light. Mr Li is due at the Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, when he is expected to order 30 A320 planes and three long-haul A340 aircraft. The contract is estimated to be worth £1.1 billion.

Mr Li's visit comes at a time when France is trying to rebuild relations with China that were damaged by the 1992 sale of 60 Mirage fighters to Taiwan. M Juppé's predecessor, Edouard Balladur, went

Peking: President Jiang Zemin of China yesterday asked George Bush, the former American President, to use his influence to help Sino-American ties, battered by disputes on trade, Taiwan, human rights and nuclear sales.

"He is an old friend," Mr Bush said when he met Mr Jiang here. (Reuters)

out of his way to court the Chinese, a policy that has been taken up by President Chirac. Privately, French officials say the stand-off between America and China that followed Peking's decision to stage military manoeuvres near Taiwan last month could work in their favour.

Speaking on French television on Monday, Mr Li said: "We are prepared to accept a dialogue on the problem of human rights but China cannot accept human rights being used to interfere in our internal affairs."

Mr Li's heavy workload had forced him to postpone visits to The Netherlands and Luxembourg, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said last night. A spokesman for the ministry denied reports by a Hong Kong newspaper that the plans to sell submarines to Taiwan. (Reuters)



Admira Ismic, a Muslim, and Bosko Brkic, a Serb — the young lovers whose death in Sarajevo three years ago became a symbol of the Bosnian War

## EUROPEAN

# Sarajevo Romeo and Juliet

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

IT WAS in May 1993 that Admira Ismic and Bosko Brkic were shot dead as they tried to flee Sarajevo. She was a Muslim, he a Serb and they wanted to escape the madness of their country.

For eight days the couple lay in a still embrace on Vrbanka Bridge — her arms around him in a tragic symbol of ethnic warfare — before Serb soldiers scooped up their bodies one night and deposited them in a Serb cemetery.

When they died, Admira's father, Zijah Ismic, said: "If life is to hope, then I hope I will one day be able to bury them together as they lived. Now his wish has come true."

The couple's bodies have been exhumed from their unmarked grave and returned to Sarajevo where they will be buried today in the Lion Cemetery. Mr Ismic said: "He stayed in Sarajevo because of her and she wanted to reward him by leaving with him to the Serb side."

Admira and Bosko met at a Sarajevo café in 1985 at a time when inter-ethnic courtship was normal. They had been together for eight years before they were killed, both aged 25.

and he Belgrad. They having passage bridge and land, they fire. Lying mira crowd putting her. While I over who w bodies lay I were dubbed meo and Jul Admira's Ismic, said: them so I did it, but this Zijah went to I cried for hou

□ The Hago Croat camp Zivavko Mucic came the first st with atrocities a be taken into e Yugoslav War C nal here. Indici actions as commu Celebici camp in nia, he is charged sibility for at least seven cases of tortu rapes carried out guards and command. (AP)

## roid cancer

# Champs-Elysées art exhibition arouses Parisian passions

BY ADAM SAGE

A VAST open-air sculpture exhibition has given the Champs-Elysées in Paris a distinctly off-beat look.

Building on the success of a similar exhibition by the Spanish artist Botero in 1992, Paris town hall has decided to transform the French capital's most famous avenue into a museum of modern sculpture until June. Almost 50 Rodin, Picasso and Henry Moore are in place awaiting the official opening tomorrow.

"We wanted to take art back to the street and therefore to everyone," Solange Auzias, de Turenne, who organised the exhibition, said. "We wanted to give as wide a public as possible access to some respected works liked at present by a privileged few."

Even before tomorrow's opening the works have attracted interest and more than a little bewilderment. Drivers, who usually race down the Champs-Elysées, can be seen to slow as they are met by the huge sculptures.

Some tourists have trouble knowing what to make of it all. "I would not like this in my garden," a sightseer said as she peered at a brightly coloured work by the French artist Niki de Saint-Phalle.

Organisers of the exhibition say it is at night that it will be most spectacular. A lighting system has been created with the darkness to the surprise of passers-by. Jean Tiberi, Mayor of Paris, said he had been motivated by the "desire to make Parisians lose their heads. The desire to surprise them, to seduce them, to invite them to a strange party."

Not everyone has been seduced. Jean-Paul Belmondo, the veteran French film star, said there were not enough Gallic sculptures on show. Accusing the organisers of "petence and exhibitionism," he said he would not go. "I have just come from the Champs-Elysées," he said, "and I have seen the world's most beautiful avenue in the world, defaced by the sculptures exhibited by the city of Paris."

His comments may not be entirely objective. He has been criticised that works by his father, Paul, have been left out of the exhibition.



Rodin's 'The Thinker'

# Berlusconi pitches for Catholic vote

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

WITH the Italian election less than two weeks away, the Left reacted angrily yesterday to an open pitch for the Roman Catholic vote by Silvio Berlusconi, the leader of the conservative Forza Italia party.

The question of "who God votes for" has become central to the election since last week when the Italian Bishops' Conference dropped any attempt to instruct Catholics on voting preferences and issued instead a list of values for voters, such as family life, workers' rights, social justice, the environment and peace and solidarity.

The bishops' list was interpreted by the Left as "socialist", but Signor Berlusconi,

speaking on one of his own television channels, said Forza Italia was the natural home for Catholics because it believed in "the family, life and the human being". Romano Prodi, leader of the centre-left bloc, retorted that the media tycoon was dishonouring Easter and "using religion as an instrument of political marketing".

The former Prime Minister's remarks also irritated the rump Christian Democratic parties, which are allied with Forza Italia and whose roots and ideology are Catholic.

However, Gianfranco Fini, leader of the post-Fascist Alleanza Nazionale, which is increasingly the dominant element in the centre-right bloc, agreed with Signor Berlusconi that the Left had a history of atheism and had no claim to the Catholic vote.

Leftwingers say the Pope's views are socialist, pointing to his Easter message and to a recent speech to factory workers in Siena in which he accused entrepreneurs of "exploiting the free market in pursuit of automatic riches" at the expense of workers.

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Theodore Kaczynski

## Suspect's brother put lives before loyalty

By QUENTIN LETTS

THE younger brother of Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, 33, the suspected Unabomber, wrote to him last autumn, asking to visit him at his remote shack in Montana. Documents have now been found at the shack bearing the names of some of the Unabomber's victims.

David Kaczynski, whose struggle with his conscience is perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the arrest of the prime suspect, wanted discreetly to check his fears that his eccentric brother was the multiple bomber.

A charity worker from New York State, he felt the first stirrings of suspicion last summer after noticing that his elder brother's occasional sorties from Montana bore a similar pattern to the Unabomber's attacks. The two brothers had not met for six years, but Ted sent postcards and letters home.

David Kaczynski's disquiet was accentuated in October when he noticed marked similarities between Ted's writings and the Unabomber's \$5,000-word manifesto, which had been published in national newspapers. At this point, he asked a private investigator to look into the matter. When his request to visit the Montana shack met with a refusal, his suspicions were increased.

Much as Mr Kaczynski may curse the difficulty of the decision he had to make to put the lives of others before family ties and take his suspicions to the FBI, he won praise from Jack Levin, a leading criminologist. "We learn from an early age that you don't tattle," Mr Levin said. "You especially don't tattle on family members. This brother deserves tremendous credit."

The discovery at Mr Kaczynski's shack of documents bearing the names of Unabomber victims has hardened the belief of FBI agents that they have arrested the man who over 18 years conducted a bombing campaign across America that killed three people, but so far he has been charged only with making an explosive device.

# First woman White House press secretary complains of 'glass ceiling'

## Clinton accused of running club for 'white boys'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DEE DEE MYERS, the first woman White House press secretary, has criticised President Clinton for running a "white boys' club" where women struggle to be heard.

Ms Myers, who resigned in December 1994, has gone public with a complaint increasingly heard privately that a "glass ceiling" exists for women in Mr Clinton's team, except for Hillary Clinton.

They complain that Mr Clinton is more comfortable governing with an inner circle of male advisers, contrary to his rhetoric about the virtues of diversity and of ending gender bias.

If the issue gains national attention it could embarrass Mr Clinton, who is expected to draw more heavily on women than men for support in the election. In fact, he has appointed more women to Cabinet and other top jobs than any previous President. Ms Myers was a case in point. At 31, after a year as the Clinton campaign spokeswoman, she landed the job of White House press secretary.

However, she was not given the office or duties that traditionally go with the post. She was parked in a cubby-hole while George Stephanopoulos, the communications director, occupied the larger office and conducted daily press briefings.

It was Ms Myers' first taste of being pushed into a subservient role. She had far less access to senior officials than her predecessors had and was excluded from high-level

Tokyo: William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, will visit Japan on Sunday and Monday before President Clinton's state visit next week, the Foreign Ministry announced. Mr Perry will hold talks over American bases in Okinawa, where three US servicemen were convicted of raping a girl of 12 last September. (Reuters)

meetings where decisions were made. Nonetheless, when things went wrong, she was frequently the victim of Mr Clinton's flashes of temper, known as "the purple rage".

Ms Myers makes her resentment known in a new book, *Madhouse*, by Jeffrey Birnbaum, a senior political writer for *Time* magazine. His account says that Ms Myers was still out of the inner circle when she took over the briefings from Mr Stephanopoulos. She was not told in advance of Mr Clinton's plans to bomb Baghdad in retaliation for President Saddam Hussein's plot to assassinate George Bush. As a result, she unwittingly gave untruthful answers to reporters' questions — an enormous black mark for a press secretary.

Ms Myers was dismayed during an emergency meeting of the Clinton team called to discuss a dollar crisis. Men sat at the table and women against the wall, including Ms Myers and, to her shock, Laura D'Andrea Tyson, a

financial expert who was chairman of the Economic Advisory Council. Ms Tyson tried several times to say something but men talked over her. She almost had to shout before Mr Clinton called on her to speak, and then largely took her advice.

As Ms Tyson and Ms Myers left, they agreed it was not the first time it had happened and that it would not be the last.

To be fair, after much indecision, Mr Clinton promoted Ms Tyson to a new economic post last year. However, other women working for him remain convinced their ideas do not carry weight.

Alice Rivlin, the budget director, wanted to compromise on a balanced budget but was overruled. Donna Shalala, Health Secretary, lost control of healthcare reform. Hazel O'Leary, the Energy Secretary, is derided as ineffectual. Carol Browner, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, defers to Al Gore, the Vice-President, on policy. Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, lacks the presidential trust of her male predecessors.

Several women have left in frustration. So has Ms Myers, now co-host of a TV programme about politics. Her position was even less tenable after Leon Panetta became White House Chief of Staff and ignored her. She and Mr Clinton had a heart-to-heart talk during which they cried and said they loved each other. She stayed only long enough to resign with dignity.



Dee Dee Myers, who felt the President excluded women from his circle of advisers

Reporters liked her, but felt she had insufficient intellect for the job. She was replaced by Mike McCurry, white and male, whose basic condition was one she never had: unfettered access to the President.

Wider powers: Mr Clinton last night ratified legislation that will give the President more control over items included in the federal budget. The fresh air of public accountability will blow through

the federal budget," the President said after signing the Bill. The so-called line-item veto will come into effect in January, after the inauguration of the President elected in November. (AFP)

## American children switch screens

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN children are watching five hours' less television a week than they did in the 1980s, according to new figures. Research found that youngsters aged two to 11 sit in front of the television for an average of 21 hours, 38 minutes a week.

A decade ago the figure was more than 26 hours a week. The 18 per cent drop is attributed to increased use of computers, videotapes and, perhaps, an increased awareness among parents of the "time-wasting" potential of television. Despite the drop in average watching times, however, television remained the biggest single activity for children, far more than sport, books or other forms of play.

The watching figures were reported by Nielsen Media Research, which also monitors audience figures for television companies and advertisers. The drop in viewing times will be a cause for concern within the industry as it may threaten the ability of television to provide advertisers

a mass market. Some companies have already accommodated the change, and now market their products on computer online services and elsewhere.

Audrey Guskey, a marketing analyst at Pittsburgh School of Business Administration, said yesterday: "Children certainly are watching less television. Technology has expanded to allow more creativity. It is very good news for society, although in some instances we are going from one evil to what a lot of people consider to be another evil."

Families are monitoring television habits more, she said, and sometimes prefer videotapes because they can be selected by parents and pre-screened for undesirable material. "Modern parents have grown up with television and know what a time waster it can be. Children are moving in the right direction," Ms Guskey said. Children's television viewing reached its peak in 1984, when

American youngsters spent more than 26 hours a week watching programmes. In 1988 they were still devoting the equivalent of a whole day a week to the television, but the figures then dropped steeply with the development of computer entertainment and the Internet. It may also be that the viewing slump has something to do with the woeful quality of some shows.

Business executives have a saying that "advertising follows the eyeballs", and consequently some firms now reserve part of their promotional budgets for media other than television. Jane Dukes, a marketing manager for the fast food chain McDonald's, said: "We have to innovate, be relevant and stay contemporary." Her company, much of whose business comes from children, now chases those eyeballs down computer lines and cable television outlets specialising in children's entertainment.

## Killer apologises to prostitutes' families

By QUENTIN LETTS

A CONFESSED murderer of prostitutes who dismembered his victims and dumped their bodies in New York rubbish bins apologised to the families of the women he killed, and said that he felt "horrible".

Robert Shulman, a 42-year-old post office sorter, whimpered as he was led to a police car in Patchogue, Long Island. He confessed to killing five young women since 1991.

Shulman, whose 37-year-old brother is also being questioned by police in connection with the murders, would drive to a notorious pick-up spot for prostitutes and take them back to his flat. There, after sex and drugs, he would beat

them to death using a hammer, baseball bat or his gymnastic weights. He disposed of the bodies in bins around Long Island, having first chopped off the women's arms.

Police finally tracked down one of the victims from a tattoo on her body. From there the investigation moved swiftly, for Shulman and his cruising blue Cadillac were familiar to the local prostitutes. The Shulman brothers were known in the area as odd but rarely talked to neighbours.

Prosecutors would not say if they intend to press for the death penalty for the killings reminiscent of Jack the Ripper under the state's recently altered punishment laws.

## Rockets injure 26 Israelis

Jerusalem: At least 26 Israeli citizens were wounded yesterday when Islamic guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets at a Jewish settlement along the northern border with Lebanon (Ross Dunn writes).

The attack, after a landmine explosion killed a Lebanese youth, 17, has raised fears that the conflict in south Lebanon could worsen.

Hezbollah guerrillas fired two salvos on Kiryat Shmona and one rocket made a direct hit on a block of flats. Israel retaliated immediately, using air force jets, artillery and heavy tank fire to blast suspected hideouts of Hezbollah fighters.

## Sharjah sheikh dies of stroke

Dubai: A member of Sharjah's Royal Family has died of a stroke three weeks after he was injured when a firecracker hit him during an international football match in the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Mohammad bin Khalid al-Qasbi died in Britain, where he was undergoing plastic surgery on his ear, which had been ripped off by the firecracker. (AFP)

## British tie cut

Wellington: New Zealand moved to sever another British tie, with plans to abolish the right of appeal to the Privy Council. The next election is also to be held by proportional representation. (Reuters)

## Overtime plea

Tokyo: Takano Nagai, Japan's Labour Minister, said employers had been asked to protect workers from death from overwork by reducing overtime. Last year 76 people died of overwork. (AFP)

## Keys to faith

Tehran: An Iranian religious scholar has designed software that will call Muslim computer users to prayer five times a day. Haj Samimi spent a year developing the programme to ensure its accuracy. (AFP)

## Killer beheaded

Delhi: A 30-strong gang stormed a prison at Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu where they beheaded a man jailed for murder and escaped with his severed head, the Press Trust of India reported. (AP)

## Square bashing

Moscow: Russia will stage a military parade in Red Square on May 9 to mark the victory over Germany in the Second World War, thus reviving the Soviet tradition of huge military displays. (AFP)

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Jessica makes pre-flight checks while training

## Pilot aged seven aims to fly across US twice

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

AMELIA EARHART would turn in her watery grave. Fifty-nine years after the legendary aviator disappeared over the Pacific, another female hopes to make flying history — but with an instructor at her side and extensions strapped to her legs.

Jessica Dubroff, seven, takes off today from the quiet resort of Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco. At 4 ft 2 in she is set to become the smallest as well as the youngest person to pilot a plane across the US. She needs the leg extensions to reach the rudder pedals.

With her instructor, Joe Reid, in the co-pilot's seat, and her father, Lloyd Dubroff, behind them, Jessica faces a 6,500-mile odyssey over the Rockies and the Great Lakes to Massachusetts, all in a four-seat Cessna.

So advanced is the infant-pilot cult in America that records go only to those who make the return flight. In 1987

an 11-year-old Texan became the youngest to fly coast-to-coast, but his record was broken twice within a year. Since 1988 it has been held by Tony Aliengena, who flew from San Diego to Boston and back when nine.

Miss Dubroff has been flying barely a year. Her number of hours in the air so far is 30, a tally she will more than double during the trip. With strong tailwinds and no mishaps it could take a mere 40 hours, but if turbulence forces Mr Reid to take the controls she must repeat the whole leg to stay in contention.

America's latest aviation pioneer lacks the intercom-friendliness of an airline pilot, but shows promise in the field of reckless nonchalance.

"I'm going to fly till I fly solo," she said in one interview, a reference to a federal ban on solo flying by under-16s. "I'm going to fly till I die."



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 10 1996

## Mandela's links with rogue states vex West

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

A VISIT by Alfred Nzo, the South African Foreign Minister, to Iran has raised concern in the West over the foreign policy initiatives of the Government led by the African National Congress.

With cool assurance the Pretoria Government has publicly rejected Washington's attempts to influence its relationship with Iran, accused of sponsoring terrorism. On Monday Iran's official news agency quoted Mr Nzo at the start of his three-day visit to promote economic co-operation as saying that South Africa did not follow the American policy of trying to isolate Iran. "Relations with Iran are good," he said pointedly.

Last year, after South Africa agreed in principle to allow Iran to store 15 million barrels of oil at a coastal depot, President Mandela's Government was criticised by Washington. Iran, which supplies 90 per cent of South Africa's oil, has indicated its intention to press ahead with the project. After talks with President Rafsanjani, Mr Nzo said the oil storage agreement only required the resolution of technical problems.

Mr Nzo's visit to Tehran comes against the backdrop of growing concern about the direction and substance of South African foreign policy. President Mandela has made

it clear that South Africa intends to maintain friendly ties with states such as Cuba and Iran and will not be deterred by criticism of terrorist links or dubious human rights records.

Pitfalls in the policy were highlighted as South Africa tried to negotiate with Nigeria's military rulers. After the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists by the Abacha Government, Mr Mandela performed a volte face and led international condemnation of the junta. But when other southern African leaders failed to support him he had to back down.

A further backtracking in Pretoria's handling position towards the Abacha Government was highlighted by the problems encountered by Nigerian opposition figures in reaching Johannesburg for a meeting last weekend.

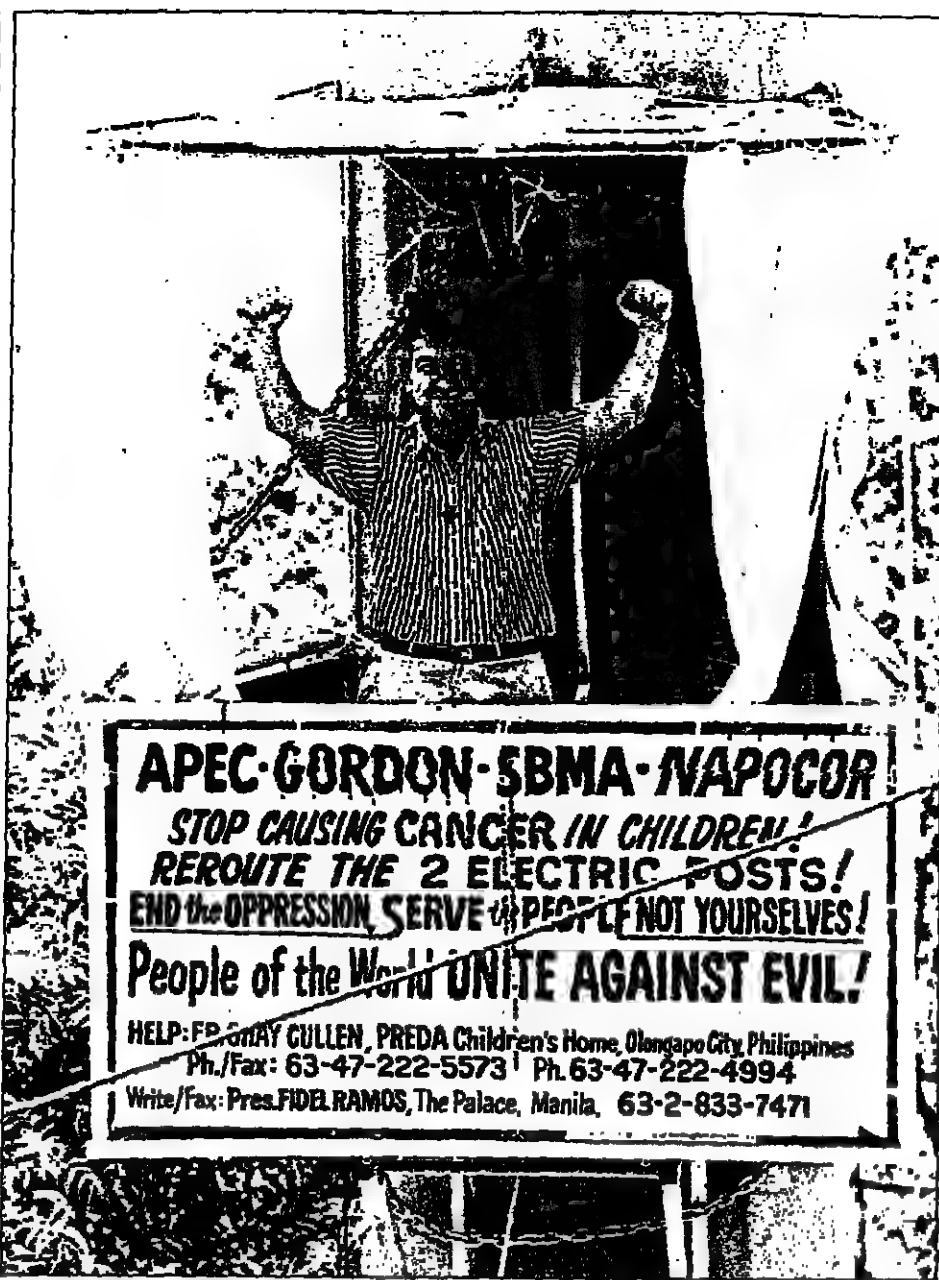
There is talk in Pretoria of a more pragmatic approach to foreign policy. Yet while Mr Mandela may have fallen more closely into step with Britain and America over Nigeria, other headaches can be expected over his ad hoc approach to foreign policy. On the back of a visit to South Africa by a prominent Algerian Islamic terrorist in February, representatives of the anti-Israeli Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, are expected in the country for an Islamic conference.

Mr Mandela has also raised eyebrows by inviting Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to visit South Africa. There is concern in Western circles that South Africa could become a haven for supporters of pariah and rogue states and behind the scenes diplomatic pressure is being brought to bear on Pretoria.

"South African foreign policy is often bewildering and perplexing," one Western diplomat said. "Western governments are making it clear they are not always happy with the company the South African Government is keeping."



Gaddafi: invited to be a guest of Pretoria



Father Cullen on his Philippines electricity pylon yesterday, where he spent a fourth day protesting against the siting of a power cable above a children's home

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## Priest's power struggle on pylon

FROM REITER IN OLONGAPO

AN IRISH priest remained perched on a 40ft electricity pylon in the Philippines for the fourth day yesterday in protest against the installation of a power cable near a children's home.

"I have to stay here on this platform as a symbol of our determination to protect the children... I will stay here until the National Power Corp will agree to remove this post," said Father Shay Cullen, 53, who is urging the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum (Apec) to back his protest.

Apec leaders are to hold a summit meeting in November in Subic, 50 miles northwest of Manila. The priest, who has lived in the Philippines for many years, climbed the pylon in nearby Olongapo on Saturday to demand the rerouting of a cable installed to provide back-up power for the meeting.

Father Cullen said the high-tension cable would pass just above a rehabilitation centre he runs for victims of child prostitution and drug addiction and was likely to emit electromagnetic radiation harmful to the children.

The 4ft by 5ft platform on top of the pylon has a cellular telephone, a fax machine and a portable lavatory.

## Cuban hardliners launch purge of party reformists

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

CUBA'S Communist Party has declared an "ideological battle" for "revolutionary purity" against dissenters and is targeting reformists within party ranks.

In language worthy of the Cold War at its height, Cuba has warned professionals and academics of an American-inspired plot to undermine the revolution through a "Trojan horse" subterfuge of cultural and intellectual exchanges.

Heads have started to roll in Havana, where officials point to a "fifth column" of academics, researchers and businessmen suspected of being seduced into "unpatriotic" activities by contacts with democracy and capitalism.

The crackdown comes at a time of heightened US-Cuban tension after the shooting down in February of two small civilian planes carrying four Cuban exiles. In retaliation, the US passed a harsh embargo law last month.

Analysts say the intellectual spy-versus-spy crisis is part of a continuing power struggle between Havana's reformers and hardliners. It is also the product of policy divisions in Washington where the anti-Castro lobby has been pushing for tougher sanctions while Clinton Administration aides favoured increased contact with Cuban reformists.

Havana was growing increasingly uneasy over the

academic exchanges after an October initiative by the Clinton Administration to boost "people to people" contacts. American officials openly discussed how they hoped this would strengthen the growth of civil groups operating more or less independently of the Communist Party.

For a while Cuba seemed to tolerate it. After the collapse of the state's traditional Soviet bloc benefactors, academics and non-governmental organisations badly needed resources and opportunities to travel and participate in international forums.

British bodine: The Government has opened a hotline to help British businesses hit by America's tightening of the Cuban embargo, and is looking at ways to get round the laws (Michael Binyon writes).

Britain has protested forcefully to the Clinton Administration and may challenge the legislation's constitutionality. The Government has begun talks with its European Union partners on the next move, and may report Washington to the World Trade Organisation if it finds the laws contradict US international obligations.

## South Korea leader awaits poll in eye of the storm

FROM ROB HUGHES IN SEOUL

BEFORE 20 million South Koreans get up to vote in today's general election, President Kim Young Sam will already have been up with the dawn, jogging and then swimming in the tranquillity of his official residence in Seoul.

Outside the walls of the Blue House residence, there have been daily bulletins threatening war from the isolated Communist North Korea; there have been student riots after the death, apparently from natural causes, of an activist protesting against government policy; and there are the trials of two former presidents charged with treason and corruption.

The contrast between this and the serenity of the President is explained when you join him for a dawn run. He says that jogging is essential to set up his body

and clear his mind for his 12-hour working day dealing with his problems. As a Presbyterian brought up in the Confucian stoic style, President Kim puts the mind-and-body principle to the fore. So do his staff: in the astonishingly well equipped Blue House gymnasium, members of the presidential household and PSS secret security staff exercise in Taekwondo, Kendo and a breathing-and-meditation ritual known as Tanjo.

Outside, in daylight, you would not know Seoul was on a war footing. You may meet, around a street corner, members of a riot squad preparing to meet student dissidents, but the street cafes bustle, and life is calm. The people are convinced that the present threats are nothing more than propaganda.

One of President Kim's advisers, Dr Lee Hong Koo, Prime Minister until last December, says there is an antipathy in the country towards politics and politi-

cians. "I am discouraged to find very little enthusiasm from the young," he says. "They think politicians are no good anyway, and we are forecasting the lowest turnout ever."

Dr Lee said that after many years committed to unification between the Koreans, he would prefer to win the bid to host the 2002 football World Cup (the choice for which will be on June 1) rather than today's National Assembly vote. "We have lost a political election before, in 1988, but survived," he said. "But the World Cup is once in a lifetime."

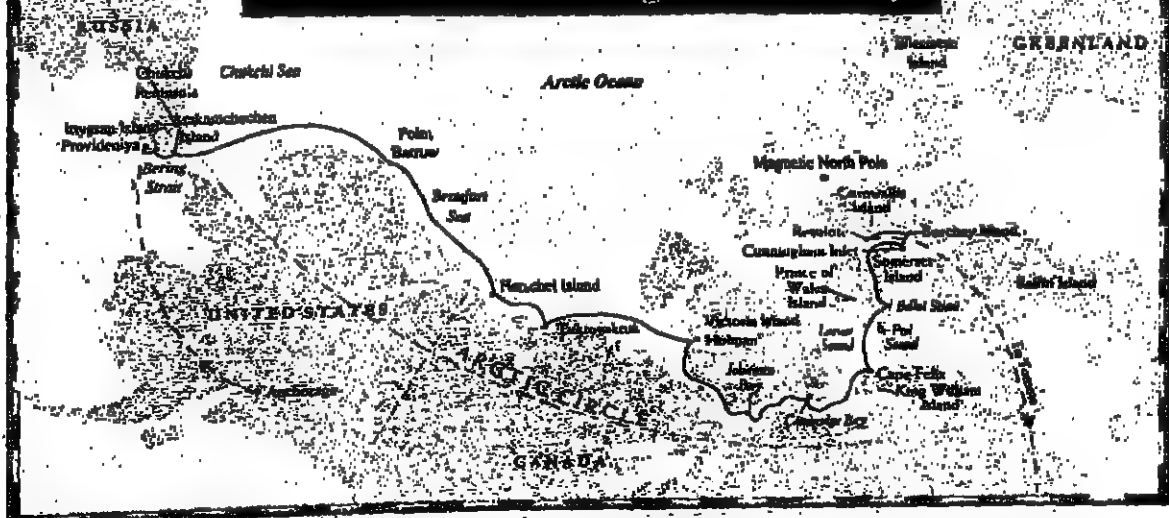
But President Kim said: "Both are equally important. The World Cup would help to change the nation's destiny... And if we were to defeat Japan for this World Cup, I see no reason to exclude our neighbour in the North. It would give me great pleasure to visit Pyongyang for a football match there. It would be a tremendous contribution to unification."



President Kim, left, jogs with Rob Hughes and an aide

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ox and numerous seabirds. We will visit ancient villages and call at Inuit settlements far above the Arctic Circle. And because the expedition is planned early in the season, we will be breaking lots of ice - a thrill in itself. To see our icebreaker at work in the northern seas and hear the crunch of the ice against her hull is an unforgettable experience.

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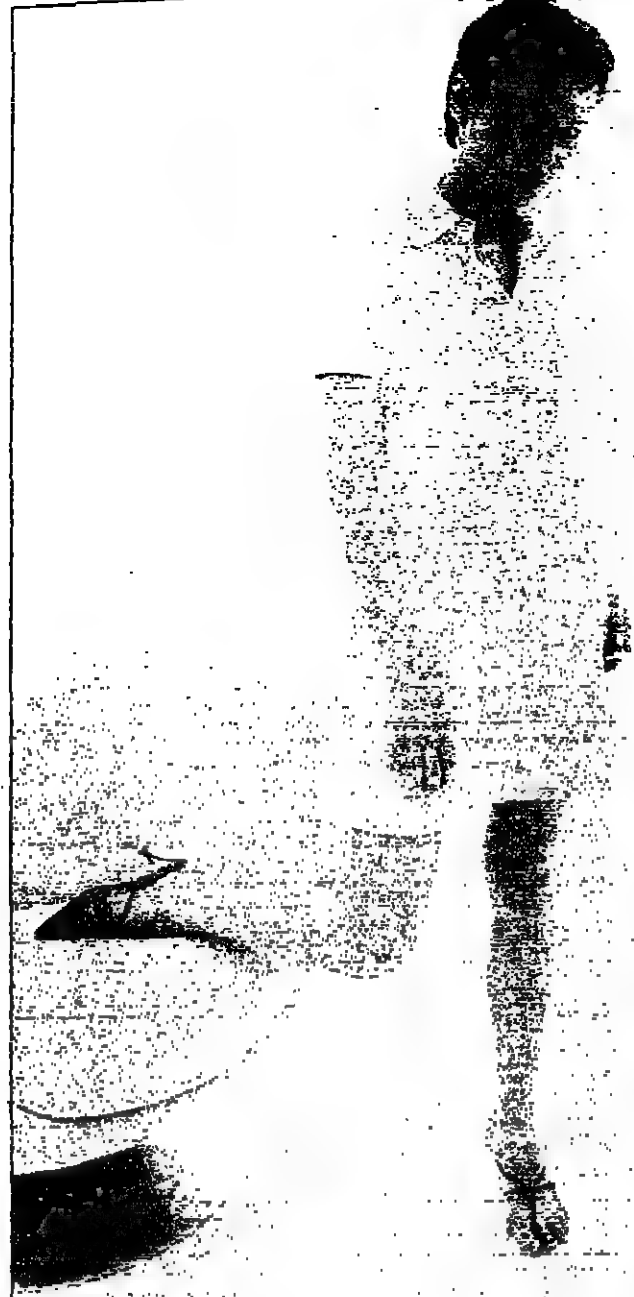


# Minimal clutter, maximum impact



**TOP LEFT:** Lilac silk button-through dress, £240, Max Mara, 32 Sloane St, SW1 (0171-257 2434). Orange strappy leather sandals, £265, Gina, to order (0171-235 2932).

**ABOVE LEFT:** Red cotton rayon dress, £455, Salvatore Ferragamo, 24 Old Bond St (0171-629 5007).



**ABOVE:** Lime polyester button-through dress, £44.99, Warehouse, nationwide (0171-278 3491). Red patent leather sandals, £175, Jimmy Choo, to order (0171-249 2082).

**LEFT:** Orange polyester dress, £28.99, Oasis, 292 Regent St, W1 (0171-377 5335). Blue suede sling backs, £265, Manolo Blahnik, 49-51 Old Church St, SW3 (0171-352 8622).

Each season, one look dominates the round of countless international shows. It encapsulates the moment, becomes the focus of the fashion pack, and is quickly picked up by retailers whose job it is to keep their customers satisfied. A zillion copies soon find their way to a high street store near you. That's the way fashion works.

It was not difficult to spot this season's front-runner when it appeared on the catwalks. The shirtdress was an obvious winner. Everywhere you looked — Max Mara in Milan, Betty Jackson in London, Hermès in Paris and almost every designer in New York — there were girls wearing the

**Smart for the office, smooth for the evening.**  
**Iain R. Webb on the return of the shirtdress**

straightforward button-through dress popular with American diner waitresses or, a little nearer home, Woolworth's sales assistants. The shirtdress was the popular choice.

So why now? Why should a dress which is little more than a glamorous overall suddenly look right? What makes designers as diverse as Gianni Versace and Ralph Lauren cut their own versions of the shirtdress in fine jersey and shantung silk respectively?



"It's the natural result of minimalism", says Lisa Armstrong, the associate editor of *Vogue*. "It's effortless but still looks smart. We are moving away from the conventional jacket-and-skirt look for work."

The shirtdress is a good summer version of the suit. The shirtdress epitomises the moment: easy chic. Designers in the 1990s offer clothes which are both comfortable and efficient. Pared down to the minimum, the mood is

one-stop dressing. The shirtdress now constitutes an outfit in itself. Smart enough to work in the office, smooth enough to take cocktails after six.

Armstrong is keen to point out that the look can, at times, appear dreary and drab. "You have to choose one in a sensual fabric. Jill Sander has a great shirtdress in her collection," she says. "Some of them come in very stiff materials, which is fine if you are young and your friends are going to understand the ironic fashion statement: you are making."

The key is to keep the silhouette uncluttered. Finish the look with a metal-link belt, or a shoe-lace thin belt tied casually at the hip.

Photographer: CHRIS CRAYMER  
Make-up: Kim Jacob. Hair: Robert Morrison  
Stylist: Tracey Jacob

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Dennis Potter: he had only weeks to live when he told Melvyn Bragg "I can celebrate life"

# How Dennis Potter found serenity

**Melvyn Bragg recalls his final interview with Britain's leading TV dramatist, who found solace and inspiration in his last days**



And so it has come to pass. The programmes will be made as prophesied. There is something in the memory of Dennis Potter which magnetises the biblical.

"Will there be any stars, any stars in my crown, when the sun goes down?" He chanted this in the last interview I did with him two years ago. "When I wake with the blessed in the mansion of rest will there be any stars in my crown?"

Like Potter, I belong to what might be the last English generation saturated in the hymns and psalms and King James's words of English Protestant Christianity, with all the implications of a deep reservoir of guilt and tantalising prospects of a rare understanding beyond ordinary sense.

It was the religious undercurrent which gave that last interview its resonance. The reaction it provoked was unique in my experience as a broadcaster and the letters which cascaded on Dennis in the Forest of Dean, on Michael Grade in his Channel 4 office and on myself were testaments that a connection had been made between the writer and an audience, a connection both raw and direct. The most public and commonplace of mediums had grappled with a most private revelation and called up deeply personal responses.

That could be sensed during the recording of the interview itself. We met at 9am because that was when he had most strength and there was only one shot. And this was precious time stolen from writing those last two plays. It is the plays, of course, which have come to pass — *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, four episodes of each — to be shown later this month, as he requested in the interview, both on BBC1 and Channel 4.

It must be the first time that anyone has used an interview to secure such a contract. But that was only a small part of it. He brought up the idea of Englishness; he mocked his terrible cancer; he spoke of his father and his failure with his father and the

continuation of his father in himself.

Constituency after constituency was conquered. And just by being there he spoke about courage, which he also discussed explicitly, surprised and relieved as he was to discover that his reaction to the certainty of his death finally dissolved a lifelong fear: that he was a physical coward. There were two things above all, though, which to me are inexplicable. The first was his decision to do the interview and to do it in every sense so openly. Open about everything — even the pain.

On that morning he had taken his usual careful allocation of pills, enough to mute the pain but not dull his mind. He wanted a drink to set him up. Champagne. Then there was the black coffee and cigarettes. And finally his silver hip flask of liquid morphine which he needed so badly when suddenly, after about 40 minutes, he jackknifed in agony.

Deliberately, we had made this television studio as bare as we could and the shooting was simple. In that context, Potter's intensity glowed. It lit up the screen with a radiance which only the surly could deny. "At certain points I felt I was flying with it," he said as we finished.

Graham Greene has a passage in an essay to the effect that extreme moments bring out and need clichés. As Dennis and I left the studio which had become something of a confessional, some-

thing of a pulpit and a space for self-analysis, one of the cameramen came up to me. There was a feeling between almost giddy exhilaration and stunned realisation that a life was about to be gutted out.

The cameraman said: "That was a bit of history." To judge from the letters and calls and conversations I have had over the past two years, this was a view widely shared. The very fact of it was an event.

The second important thing for me was an aspect of the television interview which has grown stronger as time passes. It was his description of "the nowness".

Knowing for certain that he was to die within a few weeks, he said: "The only thing you know for sure is the present time. The nowness becomes so vivid to me that in a perverse sort of way I am almost serene. I can celebrate life."

"Below my window in Ross, for example, the blossom is out in full. It's a plum tree — it looks like apple blossom but it's white. And instead of saying 'oh, that's nice blossom' looking at it through the window when I am writing, it is the whitest, frostiest, blossomiest blossom that there ever could be."

What he did there, I think, was to privilege those who know they have a short time to live. Such a death sentence can panic you, stupefy you, bring up the feelings of futility latent in us all. It can be seen as a wretched weakened

stump end to life, sans almost everything.

No, said Potter, it can be the most compelling, the most astonishing passage of life — indeed, those of us who have this knowledge of a certain end are even an elite. "The nowness of everything is absolutely wondrous. There's no way of telling you, you have to experience it — the glory of it if you like, the comfort of it, the reassurance."

It is that, I believe, which gave such a sing to so many of the letters, even those I myself received. "Will you tell Mr Potter we think he is very brave and made us feel ashamed of our aches and pains... excuse this writing, I have bad arthritis." "I feel compelled to write to you and say how privileged I feel to have shared the passion and vulnerability of such an outpouring of a dying man's reflections." "I curse myself for taking things for granted, for self-pitying, for wasting time and at times feeling sorry for myself. I feel it brought me closer to God! Truly there will be stars in his crown. God bless him."

His words spread from the comparatively few who are ill and therefore saw not only an example of fortitude but the philosophy of positive enhanced life, to the many who have great difficulty in living in the moment: in putting aside getting and spending which "lays waste our powers".

Dennis Potter's gift was to grace what in his and similar circumstances is largely regarded as the wasted end of a life, with a conviction and an insight which spoke a truth at least as great as the lengthening of a life — the truth of the quality of the lived experience. He demonstrated it in himself and he articulated it for others. At the very least, what he did for people, in the full sense of that lovely phrase, was "to give them pause".

"The fact is that if you see the present tense, boy do you see it and boy can you celebrate it!" © Melvyn Bragg 1996

## The CSA: strangled at birth

It is difficult to resist with anything other than lip-curved cynicism to the news — news? — that the Child Support Agency (CSA) has been an utter failure. But I can't see how it could have been otherwise. All along the line the CSA has been a complete disgrace for the fact is, since its very inception it has not been allowed to succeed.

That really is not to put the case too strongly. The way all attempts to make men responsible for their children have been undermined is indeed scandalous. The CSA was brought into being in order to bring to book men who had abandoned their families — and was then promptly attacked for doing so. It is widely seen to be vengeful,

How could the Child Support Agency succeed when all its efforts were opposed and undermined?

driven by men-hating vindictiveness and motivated by nothing less than a brutal feminist agenda.

I find it infinitely tiresome when every debate, every issue is seen as a gender-sensitive one, and every particle of evidence is dissected for its possible inherent sexism. I don't want to join that particular sisterhood, but the closing in of some male protectionist racket in all this is undeniable. That can't be ignored, and shouldn't be.

It's not that people try to pull one over that infuriates me, but that they succeed so

easily. Single mothers are easy to blame: there aren't that many powerful people ready to stand up for them. Naturally, I am not saying that all single mothers are misunderstood, put-upon creatures who must not be held responsible for their own actions. But — and I'm sorry to cite the jaunty phrasing of our grandparents' generation — it does take two to tango. Anyone would think that the single mother were a case of virgin birth in reverse: she alone is sullied, impure, a self-fertilising devilish whore. Logically, you simply cannot put all the blame of an undesirable conception on one of the parties alone: biology dictates that a sperm and an egg are equally necessary; those who possess the latter cannot be more to blame for a conception than the owners of the former.

That has to be, along with a good many other things, the belief of those who constructed the CSA. Even if you argue that a man who played no part in deciding to have a child, and often was ignorant that he may have fathered one, should not be held accountable at some later date, there was no real disagreement about men who simply left their first families in order to start a second. We all knew where their duties lay. So you'd think. But the ruckus that ensued. Men, it was reported, were having their lives ruined, the children of their second wives were being persecuted: this was state-instituted persecution. That such nonsense could



Nigella Lawson

even be tolerated is ludicrous: a demonstration of second wives and their children marching to Downing Street with placards bemoaning their lot goes beyond satire. I

**Men who bleat about supporting their children deserve nothing but contempt**

watched these people on television: they actually believed that they were being hard done by. Peevish men said that they had moved on, had a new life, new family and why couldn't the rest of us understand that? But we cannot all be free spirits: we do have obligations, however irritating these may be. Men who bleat about the unfair expense of having to support their

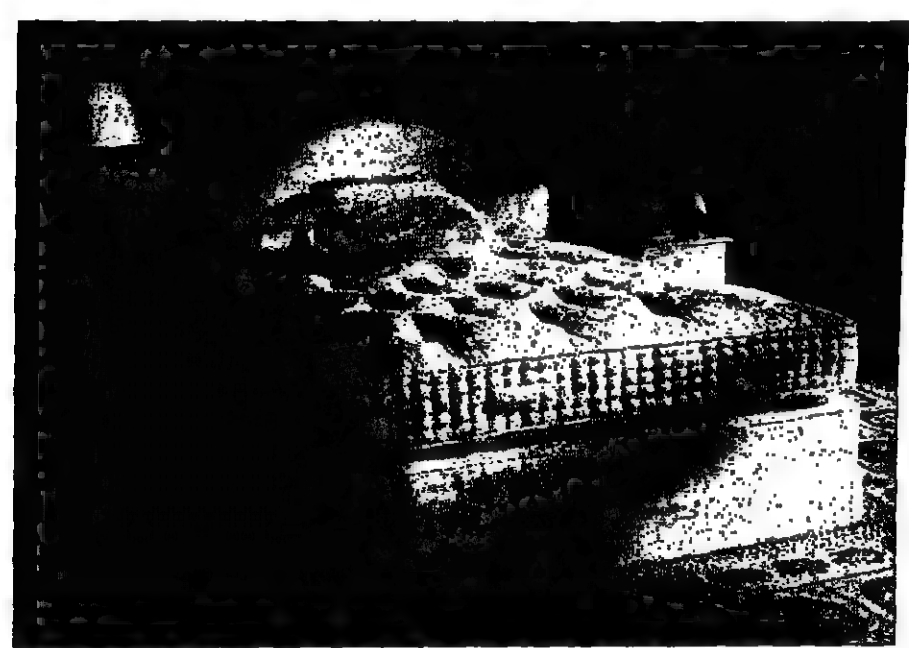
children deserve nothing but contempt. Instead they are listened to sympathetically.

Everyone wants to gratify their own desires regardless of what reality demands of them. I read recently an account of a woman who'd married and had a baby with a man who had three children from a previous marriage. When these poor children's mother died and the children had to come and live with her, she complained of being deprived of her life with her husband and their child alone. It is lunatic for a woman to marry a man with three children and expect a life alone with him, as if they didn't exist. Unfortunately, this is how a good many men feel things should be, too. One cannot and should not legislate against people's selfishness, or refuse them the right to their wicked self-delusions, but we really do not want a government agency colluding with them in all of it.

Frank Field, the Labour MP who has attacked the CSA for having, in effect, granted an amnesty to all those men who ignore letters sent to them by the agency, is absolutely right. He wants to recoup money from errant fathers through the tax system. That makes all of us feel nervous — it sounds so coercive, so illiberal — but if the nice cop can't get results maybe it is time for the nasty cop.

At the moment the CSA is not even managing to get one in four of the men it contacts to pay something towards their own children. Yet it is still seen as an ideologically suspect crusading body. It says something about what's really being allowed to go on that any attempt to make men financially responsible for their own children is seen as a desire for revenge rather than justice.

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## Alan Coren



■ Antiques are old, rare and expensive. But we all have something collectible

As a cutting-edge media guru on constant alert for new TV formats designed to ensure my never having to do an honest day's work again, I can't tell you how excited I am by what came to me, out of the blue, last Sunday. I was lying on my couch in a vacant and pensive mood composed of two parts Vat 69 to one part Hugh Scully banging on about bun-footed Ming chronometers, when there suddenly dashed upon my inward eye a vision of how not merely to pinch but to double the already remarkable audience of 12 million his show enjoys.

My show will be called *The Non-Antiques Road Show*. It is based on the premise that while only some people are interested in curious things some people have, everybody is interested in curious things everybody has. Our scene now shifts to the head of a five-mile queue.

**Punter:** I wondered what this was. It goes thunk-thunk-thunk and lurches round the kitchen.

**Expert:** How long has it been in your family?

**Punter:** One year, five days, but it has been doing this only five days.

**Expert:** What did it do before that?

**Punter:** It did crockery. We thought it was a dishwasher.

**Expert:** Close. It is in fact a former dishwasher. It is now a tin box. If you'd just help me lean it over so that we can examine the underside, thanks, do you see that little tag? It's called a warranty.

**Punter:** How interesting! What does it do?

**Expert:** It ran out five days ago. How much did you pay for the piece?

**Punter:** £395. We love it for itself, of course, but we did sort of wonder what it would fetch if it came up at auction today.

**Expert:** Nothing. Next!

**Punter:** I was hoping you could identify this.

**Expert:** I'm not sure I can. I've never seen anything like it. It appears to be a drawer standing on four vertical shelves, topped by a horizontal door bearing a display of assorted knobs. How did you come by it?

**Punter:** I made it from a kit. The box said it was a sideboard.

**Expert:** I see. And you followed the instructions?

**Punter:** Yes. They were in Japanese, but my old man was in Changi so he knew the odd word. By the way, it is one of a pair. The other box said it was a bunk-bed, but it came out the same. Are they collectible?

**Expert:** Only if you tip the binmen. Next!

**Punter:** I was given this as a wedding present. I don't know what it is, but when you put a slice of bread in it, it turns black and goes bong.

**Expert:** Fascinating! If I were you I'd insure it to the hilt immediately.

**Punter:** Wow! So it's something of special interest, then?

**Expert:** Only to lawyers. If a guest tried it and got fused to the National Grid, you could be looking at the wrong end of six figures. Next!

**Punter:** 4: My wife and I just moved house, and we were very excited to find this stuck away in the attic. Can you tell me what it is?

**Expert:** It is an exercise bicycle.

**Punter:** 4: What is it for?

**Expert:** It is for sticking away in the attic. Next!

**Punter:** 5: My father was a keen gardener, and built up a huge collection of these items which I have just inherited. What are they?

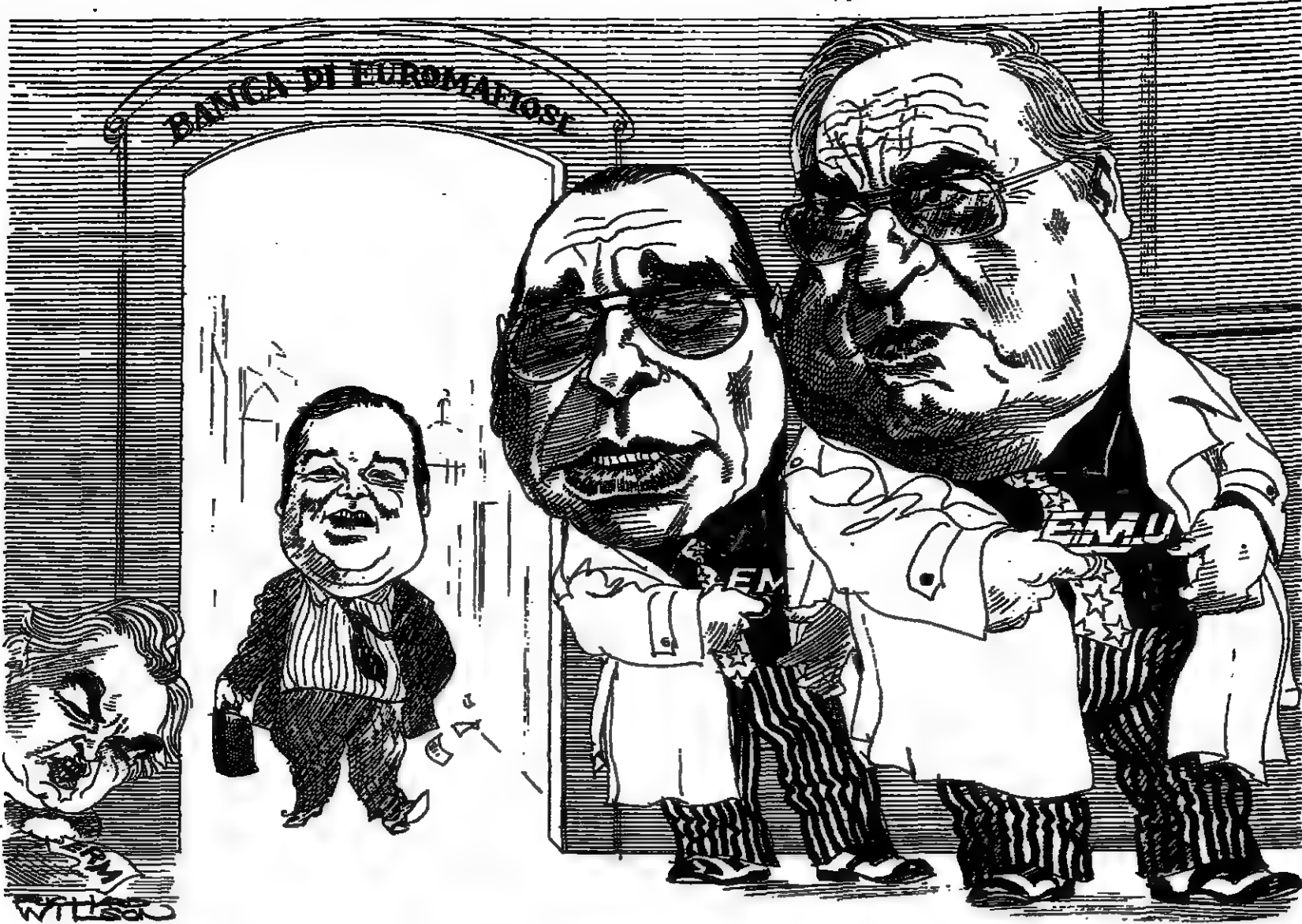
**Expert:** They are known to the trade as sprinklers. You attach them to a hose, run into the spray, hit them with a stick so that they turn twice, then you go out and buy some more.

**Punter:** 5: Should I hang on to them?

**Expert:** Only if you want to be hurled across the lawn. Next!

**Punter:** 6: For years we used this to prop open the back door, never imagining it was worth anything, until a friend said he thought it might be Chinese. Is he right?

**Expert:** Yes. I'm pretty sure it's a crispy duck from, at a guess, the late 1980s. The boom in takeaway food has brought countless rare artefacts to our attention. I recently saw a slice of deep-dish pizza which had been down the side of a sofa since the Royal Wedding. Next!



## Say no to a new ERM

At Verona, Clarke should resist the threats of the hard men of Europe's hard core, says Bernard Connolly

This Friday, the European Union's finance ministers and central bank governors will meet in Verona "informally". In typical EU fashion, "informals" are where the most important economic decisions are taken, as far away as possible from even the pretence of accountability. The Verona gathering looks likely to be the most explosive since the Bath meeting in September 1992. The common factor is, of course, the dreaded exchange-rate mechanism (ERM), the most perfect instrument ever devised for ruining economies and setting Community countries at each other's throats.

The European Union, said President Chirac of France, must provide itself with a means of "punishing" countries that do not "accept the common discipline" imposed by the establishment of a monetary union among a small group of European countries, the self-elected "hard core" of Germany, France, the Benelux and Austria. What this would mean in practice, if the "hard core" countries (the "ins") get their way, is that the EU countries that do not participate (the "outs") will have to submit instead to a new ERM.

The demands of the "ins" are illuminating. When monetary union was being sold to the uneasy populations of the European countries, it was presented both as the gateway to an economic nirvana and as an indispensable symbol of the fellow-feeling of European peoples. At Verona, we shall see the unpleasant reality behind this most pernicious of all Euro-myths.

The "ins" are afraid that if other countries retain the freedom to manage monetary policy in their own interest they will be at an advantage. The "ins" talk of discriminatory trade measures or even fines being imposed on "outs" that refuse to join a new ERM. They are signalling that life outside the euro might turn out to be life in the comfort zone, not out in the cold: monetary union is not so much a two-speed process as a two-class system.

Some countries are more equal than others. For the self-selecting oligarchy of Single Currency Farm, the Union's interest means their interest, or at least their misguided conceptions of their interest. They are prepared to pursue it even at the expense of further damaging any sense of legality and fairness in the way the EU operates, of destroying the Single Market and of abandoning the stated underlying objectives of the EU.

Why should potential "outs" agree at Verona to a new mechanism? The so-called "southern periphery" — Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece — unwisely wants to participate in a single currency as soon as the hard core will allow. This will probably turn out to be never: the "ins" would be much happier to maintain indefinitely a mark II ERM which allowed them to dictate the monetary and economic policies of the southern countries than to allow them into, in effect, a political union. But the hope, however naive and misguided, that they might someday be granted entry to the inner circle is likely to make the southern countries jump when they are told to jump. If ever reason prevailed, the whip of a drastic reduction in EU handouts will be cracked when the EU's financial settlement (the "Delors II" package) comes up for renegotiation in 1997.

Britain and Sweden are in a very different position. In both countries, government heavyweights want to be part of the single currency, but their populations are dead against it. Neither government can openly appeal to desire for future monetary union as an excuse for acceding to hard-core demands. And neither country can be threatened by an amputation of EU transfer payments: indeed they would benefit from it, since they pay far more into the Euro-coffers than they get out (BSE or not).

Would they, then, be breaking any EU laws or agreements if they refused to join up for the "common discipline" of a new ERM? On the face of it, the answer is "no". For that we have to thank Norman Lamont, who, according to his account of the Maastricht negotiations, headed off an attempt by John Major and Douglas Hurd to have ERM membership made legally binding. But Maastricht stipulates that the "outs" have to treat their exchange rates as a matter of common interest (no similar obligation is imposed on the "ins"). And a one article obliges member countries to facilitate the EU's tasks and to avoid any action that could jeopardise the

Union's objectives, including the single currency.

The "ins" will try to interpret these two articles, however dubiously, as requiring the "outs" to manage their monetary policies and exchange rates for the benefit of the "ins". Since some of the more obvious candidates for "out" status are the EU's poorer countries, that interpretation runs counter to the underlying objectives of "solidarity" and "social cohesion". The interpretation would also involve macroeconomic instability and difficulties in structural improvement for the "outs", running counter to the treaty's objectives of sustainable and non-inflationary growth, convergence of economic performance, a high level of employment and raised standards of living.

Unfortunately, a common-sense reading of the treaty will cut no ice with the hard men of the hard core. They will claim, in the face of a wide contrary consensus among economists, that the Single Market cannot operate properly if there are movements among the EU currencies. (This argument, incidentally, was not made when the Single Market programme was being agreed; instead, it was conveniently "discovered" as soon as the signatures were on the 1986 treaty revision required for the implementing legislation.)

It is this specious argument that will be used to justify the threat of trade sanctions and fines against Britain. Yet there is no provision within the treaty for the whole central thrust of the Common Market, as the EU was once reassuringly known. This seems to be of little moment in hard-core eyes. But sanctions would require a treaty revision — opening the Pandora's box of re-interpretation that France, more than any other country, is afraid of. And tinkering with Britain's net EU contribution would require the approval of Parliament, something that would surely never be forthcoming, whether before or after a general election.

If Kenneth Clarke has the guts — and if he really wants to do so — he can simply refuse to play ball at Verona. More likely, however, the British Gov-

ernment will try to avoid a stand-off. It is well known that Clarke will argue for the maintenance of Britain's present inflation-targeting approach to economic management. But it has also been reported that Britain will offer to have its policies and performance monitored by the EU — in effect by the Commission acting on behalf of the "ins".

The judgment that would be applied would certainly not take Britain's interest as its basis. After all, Belgium's Finance Minister, Philippe Maystadt, one of the fiercest proponents of a discriminatory approach, recently proclaimed that the point of monetary union was to prevent "an encroachment of Anglo-Saxon values" in Europe. The real fear of the hard core, hidden behind the twisted rhetoric about preserving the Single Market, is that Britain will become too successful an exemplar of a free-market economic model that has little in common with the Rhineland model underlying the EU.

Accepting an increased degree of EU influence over Britain's economic policies would therefore be economically damaging to the country. Even worse, it would represent a cession of national sovereignty on a par with that of the secret Treaty of Dover in 1670, when Charles II accepted handouts from Louis XIV in return for a commitment to tailor English foreign policy to suit French interests. The Glorious Revolution, enshrining parliamentary sovereignty as protector of the national interest, followed soon after in the brief reign of Charles's successor.

A reassertion of national and parliamentary sovereignty is urgently needed in response to the ever-increasing encroachments of the Maastricht treaty. For that treaty itself revolutionised the EU. It enshrined the supposed Community interest (for which read the Franco-German interest, the bureaucratic interest and the corporatist interest) as separate from and higher than the pursuit by the member states of national interests.

It is for that reason that Verona — even if, against all the indications, Kenneth Clarke is prepared to tough it out — can at best be no more than a holding operation. Britain must rethink the philosophy it embraced, albeit with distaste, at Maastricht. The one virtue of the "ins and outs" debate may be to make that clear to everyone.

Simon Jenkins is away

## An end to child sex tourism

Britain must act, Rachel Campbell-Johnston writes

A former Australian ambassador has been charged with sex offences committed against children while overseas. His arrest draws urgent attention to one of the most submerged social problems of the modern world. Child prostitution is a brutal trade in human life. It is ruthlessly legislated against in Britain, but sex tourists can travel abroad to Asia, Latin America, Africa and former communist bloc countries to feed their tastes. This dehumanising industry thrives in the developing world like some perverse travesty of colonisation.

Children from impoverished rural families are lured to the cities only to be ensnared in debt by prostitution syndicates. At risk of violence and disease, they are obliged to engage in activities which they are too young to choose freely. Often they are beaten, starved and drugged into passivity.

The extent of this industry is, of course, hard to monitor, but higher estimates are veridical: some 200,000 Nepalese children have been sold into sexual slavery in India; in Thailand perhaps as many as a quarter of a million children work in brothels; in Colombia one third of all prostitutes are thought to be under the age of 14.

It is a cause of national shame that the British should be among the worst offenders. The Government is backing a Private Member's Bill to make it an offence to organise sex tours involving children. It had its second successful Commons reading on February 2 and is to go on to the report stage later this month. Paedophile tour operators could face the sternest sentences.

We should welcome this Bill as a first step. But its implementation, involving as it does the extension of existing conspiracy laws, will present formidable difficulties. Offending tour operators have already fled underground, spreading information through the Internet and under-the-counter magazines. Even if they are brought to trial, it will be practically impossible to pin upon them direct responsibility for the actions of their clients. Besides, paedophiles intent on sex tend to act in isolation, slipping unnoticed into the mass of holiday-makers on the move. What Britain really needs is a further, more stringent law targeting the abusers themselves.

At present, British authorities are restricted to assisting with information and extraditing paedophiles suspected of crimes abroad. But in March last year, Lord Hylton introduced a Private Member's Bill in the House of Lords which would make it possible to try offenders in British courts. Similar legislation is already on the statute books in the United States, Australia, Germany, France, Sweden and Norway.

The British Government, however, is reluctant to follow suit. It is prudently wary of interfering with the laws of other nations, or setting a precedent in extrajurisdictional jurisdiction. What if other countries took this as their model? Would we approve of fundamentalist Islamic governments bringing cases against their own nationals who were known to have got drunk while on holiday over here?

Mounting a feasible case would prove both complicated and expensive. Bringing witnesses to court, for instance — a key requirement of English law — is not simple when an offence is committed overseas, and even less so where children are involved. Minors cannot simply be transplanted into an alien culture for the duration of a trial and then returned home, most especially in cases where they risk the retribution of former employers. If legislation were to be ineffective, it could also be severely counterproductive, deterring foreign governments from action.

But the presence of obstacles cannot justify inaction. Britain already has extrajurisdictional legislation for war crimes and genocide, and sexual offences against children could be considered as grave an infringement of human rights as these. Options of escape should be closed to nationals who, convicted abroad, slip loose by bribing officials or jumping bail. Indeed, considering that countries such as the Philippines are now threatening to impose the death sentence on child abusers, a British trial sounds more humane.

The appointment of more police liaison officers (already stationed in many countries for the drugs trade) to monitor child abuse, coupled with the use of video evidence and the cross-questioning of witnesses over live satellite link, can overcome many of the specific evidence laws. The Swedes have shown that such legislation can work. They brought a successful case against one of their nationals last year, and aid agencies have since noticed a marked decline in the number of Swedes abusing children abroad.

In August a world congress on the sexual exploitation of children is to be held in Stockholm. Britain ought to send a high-level delegation, able to make commitments on its behalf. There is much that the Government could do to speed the reluctant developing world into prosecuting paedophiles. The police database on paedophiles could, with proper safeguards, be made available to prosecuting authorities. Aid programmes could be extended to offer imaginative alternatives to communities living off the prostitution earnings of their children. Political pressure could be exerted on those who receive its tourists to ensure that they do not disgrace their country. It is the least the world's children are entitled to expect.

## Gripe water

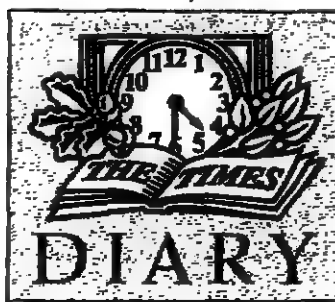
**BARONESS** Philippine de Rothschild, chateleine of one of the finest wine-houses in France, has fallen victim to political correctness. She has been forced to change the label on a prize vintage of Château Mouton Rothschild because American consumers have objected to the fruitily little picture it sports of a naked young girl.

The labels on more than 30,000 bottles of the 1993 vintage (estimated value: £60 per bottle) destined for the United States have been ripped off to be replaced with nondescript versions without the girl.

The Baroness, who commissioned the picture by the Swiss-based artist Balthus, is said to be flummoxed by this American prudery. As I reported when the label was launched last year, she is intensely proud of its sensuality. "The fragile and mysterious girl Balthus has drawn seems to hint at some secret promise of undiscovered pleasure," she gushed at the time. "A pleasure to be shared."

Mouton Rothschild has invited painters to decorate its win extraordinary every year since 1945. Dali, Miró, Chagall, Bacon and even Warhol all daubed their marks on the Baroness's bottles. But never before has any artist been considered too earthy for the palates of crusty oenophiles.

● A Middle Eastern farmer has offered the Queen four of his best camels, to replace any herds of cattle destined for slaughter. Ahmed al-Hiswah has informed a



Yemen newspaper that camel is the ideal alternative for shoppers worried about "mad cow" disease. "Camel steaks are lean, tender, full of vitamins, and free of chemicals and hormones," he explains.

## Unflagging

EURO-SCEPTICS are rejoicing at Conservative Central Office in Westminster: the Union Jack has been raised after a seven-year gap. In 1989, Kenneth Baker replaced the red, white and blue with a new party flag sporting the dreadful limp-wristed torch. This has always graced with deputy chairman Michael Trend, the MP for Windsor, and he has at last struck.

Armed with evidence from a recent survey of membership which showed that Conservatives favoured greater use of the Union

Jack, he stormed into the chairman's office, deployed grassroots sentiment, and in a lightning coup gained the necessary authority. The Baker torch is now confined to the dusty shelves where it belongs.

● The debates at the Cambridge Union next term have taken on a saucy tone. Along with "This House enjoys Pornography", there will be an *Ann Summers* night in the chamber. Attendance will be limited strictly to ladies.

## Knives out

AN UGLY rumour is doing the rounds in the kitchens of Soho. Two of the angriest young men in London, Marco Pierre White and Damien "Pickler" Hirst, are said to be teaming up to launch their own restaurant.

I've told the chef and the artist have their sights set on a Soho establishment called *Leon's Quo Vadis*, although Marco Pierre White was noncommittal yesterday. "I cannot pass comment," he said. Should rumour become fact, diners will surely be surrounded by pickled farm animals.

## Leg men

IF The Princess of Wales thinks she is having a hard time over her



Senator Bob Dole stripped and ready for political action

legs, she should try being an American presidential candidate. In Washington, talk of legs has put Tony Blair's sightseeing trip in the shade.

Last week Senator Bob Dole, the likely Republican candidate, who has kept his pins well covered since an ill-advised appearance on a treadmill last year, showed them off while relaxing in Bal Harbour, Florida. Wearing a casual T-shirt over a richly-fed belly, the 72-year-old opted for the skimpiest of shorts to reveal a pair of "gams"

far superior to President Clinton's gelatinous thighs.

Dole's team is claiming a triumph. "We've had nothing but compliments," says his spokesman Clarkson Hine. "And as for those shorts, they are perfectly appropriate for someone as physically fit as Senator Dole." The President's advisers, meanwhile, have advised him to wear track-suit bottoms when jogging.

P.H.S



The vintage wine label, but not as America will see it





## WALK SOFTLY

Ulster needs firm policing but sensitive politics

The stifled drums from south Belfast sound a warning for peace in Ulster. The unfortunate scenes of violence between loyalist marchers and the Royal Ulster Constabulary this week do not augur well for the difficult months ahead. The Protestant marching season coincides with the preparations for elections to Northern Ireland's peace convention. If Ulster is to avoid a descent into communal violence then a mixture of delicacy and resolution will be required to maintain public order and sustain political progress.

There were mercifully few casualties in the rioting on Monday night but the expression of loyalist frustration was far more strident than even pessimists expected. The marchers may have argued that they were asserting their traditional rights. Certainly, unlike the republicans who met in Londonderry the day before, the Apprentice Boys do not march for armed rebellion against elected governments. Even so, the RUC was right to prevent them proceeding. Since the end of the IRA ceasefire republicans have restricted their bombing to the British mainland. If, as many suspect, the IRA is looking for an excuse to extend its campaign to Ulster, a loyalist parade through a Roman Catholic area on the 80th anniversary of the Easter Rising could have provided one. The marchers, like the other citizens of the United Kingdom, must occasionally accept the curtailment of their liberties in an effort to contain terror.

Many of the traditional marches this season may pass without incident but it is likely that there will be other even more fraught confrontations. In July, the Orange route of Portadown will attempt to walk the route that culminated last year in the scenes of civil unrest now known as the siege of Drumcree. It was David Trimble's willingness to stand up for his constituents' rights then that helped to propel him to leadership

of the Ulster Unionist Party. Mr Trimble will be at the march again this year, but now there is a darker mood.

Tensions among the working-class loyalist communities of Ulster appear even greater than last year. Although the framework documents on Ulster's future had aroused Unionist fears of a weakening of the Province's position within the UK, the IRA ceasefire was in place and republicans had to hand over weapons before they could enter talks. Now, although mainstream Unionism has more open, attractive and assertive leaders in David Trimble and the avowedly non-sectarian North Down Independent, Robert McCartney, there are worrying signs. The IRA's resumption of violence has profoundly unsettled the Unionist majority. Loyalist paramilitaries, particularly in mid-Ulster around Portadown, are restive. Moreover, the perception exists among Unionists that a fixed date for talks and a softer line from some on arms decommissioning are concessions to republicans.

Ulster's Unionist majority requires reassurance. A firm line on policing should be accompanied by a political stance sensitive to Unionist fears. Proposals from Dublin that the IRA might be enticed into another tactical ceasefire with the prospect of separating political talks and progress on decommissioning should be unambiguously opposed. Softening would unsettle Unionists without satisfying the IRA.

Republican rhetoric at the weekend suggests that the IRA will continue its campaign, calculating that elections in Ireland and Britain will deliver more pliable administrations. The best hope remains, as always, in a commitment to stable and accountable rule in Ulster and the best route lies through respect for democratic principles. If the Government gives forth an uncertain sound, the angry beat of the loyalist drum is likely to get louder.

## GO WEST, YOUNG MEN

British politics looks to America for inspiration

Tony Blair arrives in New York today at the start of a high-profile visit to the United States. John Redwood left for Washington yesterday. The purposes of the two trips are somewhat different. Mr Redwood's aim is to burnish the intellectual credibility of the Conservative 2000 Foundation with which he is associated. Mr Blair, playing the part of Prime Minister in waiting, hopes for blanket coverage of the Bill-and-Tony show.

But Mr Blair will also be acknowledging the debt that new Labour owes the Democratic Party. On economics, the importance of education and innovations in welfare and training, both he and Gordon Brown have borrowed openly from the Clinton Administration, especially Robert Reich, the current Labour Secretary.

Labour is hardly alone in its fascination with things American. For all the easy assumptions that the special relationship is irrelevant to the post-Cold War world, America remains the place to which British politicians flock for new notions. Michael Howard's controversial law and order initiatives — built around the principle of extended mandatory minimum sentences — comes fresh from California and the American "three strikes and you're out" laws.

Thatcherites look longingly to Newt Gingrich and the Republican majority in the House of Representatives for policy renewal: this is Mr Redwood's fourth visit to Washington since leaving the Cabinet. A Conservative defeat at the next general election, coupled with the return of a Republican Congress, would start a stampede towards such ideas among aspirants for John Major's crown. Even Paddy Ashdown seems enamoured by Mr Gingrich's example, the Republican Contract

with America concept having reappeared here as the "Liberal Democrat Guarantee". America is not alone in offering inspiration. Conservatives have enthused about public sector reform in New Zealand, while Mr Blair has, at least until the recent departure of Paul Keating, been obviously intrigued by Australian policies. Singapore apparently tempts him. All of these places are even further from Europe than the United States.

Labour Party thinkers used to look to Germany on economic philosophy and to Sweden for a social welfare model. Fourteen years of Christian Democrat dominance in Bonn and the continued dire state of the Social Democrats there have cooled Labour's interest in Germany, while the economic bankruptcy of the Swedish model has ended its infatuation with the Swedes.

The reasons for American influence are not difficult to explain. A highly dynamic society composed of 50 states and numerous large cities is a laboratory for government. American universities dominate global social science research, as they do the natural sciences. Their work is supplemented by hundreds of think-tanks backed by a vast private philanthropic practice that is the envy of those attempting similar studies in London. The power of ideas is not, however, the sole explanation. Comparable political systems, shared historical experience and the enormous advantage of a common language continue to matter, as the interest in Australia, New Zealand, and even Singapore confirm. It has become fashionable to assume that post-Maastricht, British politics has become "Europeanised"; but the trade in ideas has never relied solely or even primarily on geographical proximity.

## OAT CUISINE

Bring on the horse-radish and serve

"I am a great eater of beef, and I believe that does harm to my wit," declared Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Modern Britain is just discovering the wisdom in his buffoonery. A slaughterman spotting a new beef-averse market is opening what he claims to be the first British butcher's shop to specialise exclusively in horsemeat. At Cheval Butchers in Smethwick, Bob Walker will offer the best cuts of horseflesh for as little as 20p a pound for the cheaper cuts — the saddle perhaps — and 80p for the best.

Mr Walker is merely revitalising an old trade in this country. During the Second World War, business was brisk for this unrationed meat. In 1947 around 19,000 horses were slaughtered for human consumption. Horseflesh continued to grace British menus for several more years, a consequence of tractors displacing working horses.

Cart-horses were regarded as the tastiest bargains, followed by Irish vanners, circus ponies and Shetland ponies. Their lean, stringy meat is low in fat and high in protein. Its sweetish taste — caused by the high starch content of muscle tissue — is offset by the French, and even more the Belgians, know that. Give him diced steak de cheval, a few kilos of potatoes and a saucepan of sauerkraut and that dull glutton, the average Hercule, glows with gustatory anticipation. But could the British beef-eater again become a chevalier? Every nation enjoys its peculiar provender. Eskimos suck on the eyes of seals. Britons crunch locusts

as a chitinous snack, guinea-pigs vanish down Peruvian gullets and Romanians prick their palates with hedgehog.

In earlier ages the British too were adventurous treacherers. Ben Jonson, inviting a friend to his mythical board, proffered every avian delicacy from godwit and knot to rail and ruff. But in a more modern age, even as emu and ostrich are promoted by British butchers, a squeamish sentimentality stops us feasting on our more familiar fauna.

Jonson's coney is rapidly disappearing from the shops as a generation brought up embracing rabbits puts up dewy-eyed protest. Jodhpured daughters would as soon see their mother in the pot as their pet pony. Yet Britons are pragmatists. Suffering the pangs of Antarctic hunger, Scott wolfed down his pack horses one by one. Baden Powell, besieged in Mafeking, discovered more ways than one to cook a cat.

Fortunately, despite BSE, today's situation is not quite that drastic. But unwanted or injured horses are chopped up for dog food every day. We might learn to eat horse again ourselves, if it were marketed better. The first challenge is the name. Just as we adopted Norman derivations for our other meats — beef comes from *boeuf* and mutton from *mouton* — so the Anglo-Saxon horse, when served at table, could be known as *cheval*. It will be a welcome addition to our diet and a fresh challenge to our galloping gourmets. *Hors d'oeuvre* may never mean quite the same thing again.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## 'Fudge' on prejudice in the Forces

From Mr Paul Stephenson

Sir, The order issued by the commanding officer of the Household Cavalry that every member of that regiment must attend race relations classes as part of his training (report, March 29) is welcome as far as it goes.

However, it must come as a bitter disappointment to many black personnel presently in the Armed Forces that the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) has shown no immediate intention of acting swiftly and decisively to curb further the acts of racial discrimination which their own investigation has proved to be widespread throughout the British Army (report, March 28, later editions).

As a black former senior executive officer with the CRE, experience has taught me that monitoring aspects of racism and discrimination to detect behaviour and equality of opportunity has little impact on actually changing patterns and culture of racist behaviour within large institutions. The NHS, Civil Service and police forces have been monitoring their personnel within the confines of equal opportunities for years but have hardly denied patterns of widespread racism in those institutions.

The CRE's decision to leave discretionary powers to senior officers in the Armed Forces in dealing with initial complaints of discrimination is hardly likely to increase the confidence of black personnel when making a complaint against their colleagues or indeed in the whole complaints procedure.

The efforts used by the Prince of Wales in trying to influence the elite Guards regiments to accept black soldiers on equal terms into their ranks proved disastrous, in that Guardsman Richard Stokes, on whom Prince Charles had focused his attention, felt forced to leave the Grenadier Guards after three years (report, July 14, 1990), apparently through lack of support against racism and racist threats and bullying.

I suggest that the CRE should now step up its campaign for the right of black service personnel to independently take their complaints to industrial tribunals, as in the case of serving police officers. At the same time, it should issue the MoD with a non-discrimination notice, making clear its determination to enforce it.

Monitoring is not enough to over-

come entrenched patterns of racist behaviour and the cultural attitudes that underpin such behaviour. If the CRE settles for monitoring as a first weapon, it will be seen by large sections of Britain's ethnic minority population as at best a fudge or at worst a farce.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL STEPHENSON,  
12 Downs Park East,  
Westbury Park, Bristol,  
April 2.

From Mr David Allen

Sir, Sue Cameron, in her article on the culture of the Armed Forces ("A new model ministry", March 27), draws an important distinction between the response of the Chiefs of Staff to homophobia on the one hand (there is a good chance that the European Court of Human Rights will overturn the ban) and racism on the other ("the start of a real drive to change attitudes").

The MoD's ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces promotes homophobia amongst service personnel. It is not surprising then that its review found that the majority of personnel do not wish homosexuals to serve in the Armed Forces (report, March 5). The Government's response is to reinforce this homophobia by recommending that the ban should therefore stay.

Yet when the Commission for Racial Equality finds that our Armed Forces are racist (reports, March 28, later editions, and March 29), the Government announces steps to combat the situation.

Here, it seems to me, is a clear case of double standards: discrimination is discrimination, whether against gays or coloured people.

Former servicemen and women dismissed for their homosexuality will now have to rely on the European courts to ensure that a civilised government cannot discriminate against any single class of its citizens. The cost to taxpayers in compensation for the MoD's blatant homophobia will be enormous.

Yours,  
DAVID ALLEN  
(Vice-Chairman, Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality),  
34 Summerland Grange,  
Summerland Gardens, N10,  
April 3.

## Blasphemy law

From Mr Roy Edey

Sir, The Archbishop of York's letter (March 29) on the law of blasphemy, which is being challenged in the European Court of Human Rights (report, March 26), reviews a subject which should have been tackled by Parliament since 1979.

In February that year the House of Lords upheld the convictions obtained by Mary Whitehouse against the editor and publishers of a magazine called *Gay News*. Their Lordships expressed concern that other recognised faiths were not similarly protected by law.

In 1989 Mr Abdul Hussain Choudhury sought to lay information before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate against the author and publishers of

*The Satanic Verses*. He alleged blasphemous libel against Allah. The refusal to grant a summons was upheld by the High Court (Law Report, April 10, 1990).

It is necessary for the protection of society to have criminal sanctions against an insult so grave to one's faith that it is likely to cause a breach of the peace. The law should be changed. All recognised faiths should be protected from religious discrimination or incitement to religious hatred.

Such legislation would be along the lines of the race-protection laws which have been on the statute book for many years.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY EDEY,  
Lower Flat, Field House North,  
West Street, Harrow, Middlesex,  
April 3.

## Teaching and learning

From Dr Frank Beavington

Sir, Dr Gold (letter, April 2) states "teaching and learning at the new universities (former polytechnics) was probably always of a higher standard than at the older universities because... they were principally teaching institutions".

However, teachers who are active in research can communicate their enthusiasm for work being done nationally and internationally at the frontiers of knowledge adding greatly to the value of their courses, especially at second and third year degree level.

Yours faithfully,  
F. BEAVINGTON,  
Church Farm House, Ryarsh, Kent,  
April 3.

## Standards at the bench

From Mr Alfred Finer, JP

Sir, Should not the whole of the magistracy (letters, March 27, April 3) be reorganised on a stipendiary basis? It would ensure more speed, more efficiency, less cost, less back-stabbing and a professional approach.

Yours faithfully,  
ALFRED FINER,  
23 Highview Gardens, Finchley, N3,  
April 3.

## Burma and tourism

From Mr Paul Strachan

Sir, Your report (earlier editions, April 6) on slave labour in Burma was derived from an organisation called the Burma Action Group (BAG) whose members advise people not to visit Burma to see things for themselves. In fact, the country is enjoying peace and prosperity for the first time since the Japanese marched in in 1942.

Corvée labour does exist as it has done in Burma for over a millennium. With a barter economy in rural areas, the traditional form of taxation is in the form of labouring on public works projects. It is a requirement that if a household cannot pay a basic poll tax then one member must give up two

weeks a year to work on such projects. Without this system of civic contribution the Irrawaddy valley would be unrigged and the people long ago disappeared from hunger. I have witnessed corvée labour used on tourist-related projects. I am a Burmese speaker and have talked closely with the villagers concerned and have found no evidence of "abuse and suffering" or the "many people who have lost

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

## Blair's blend of faith and politics

From the Reverend Michael Windridge

Sir, In his *Sunday Telegraph* interview (report and leading article, April 8), Tony Blair claimed that his former leader, John Smith, epitomised the decency of the Scottish Presbyterian tradition. I'm sure he is right in that judgment.

As someone who has had the privilege of working at close quarters with another party leader, Margaret Thatcher, during the 1987 general election campaign, I hope that Mr Blair's generosity of spirit will extend across the political divide, and allow that the former Prime Minister's Christian faith, similarly, lies at the heart of both her own continuing sense of public service and duty, and also motivates the many kindnesses she expresses in her personal dealings.

Significantly, an increasing number of my clergy colleagues in the Church of England, and a growing proportion of members of its parish congregations, find little sympathy with, and even less charity for, anyone who supports the principles of modern Conservatism. This goes beyond mere political hostility: their handshake of peace and understanding is extended only so far as what their left-of-centre consciences dictate is the exact centre ground. Beyond that, to the right, dwell the political untouchables.

The contemporary Church of England may be a broad-based church in its commendable preparedness to welcome more varied patterns of liturgical expression. But, when it comes to the party political debate, I believe a declining number of its members are open-minded enough to examine the legitimacy of Conservative economic and social beliefs. So preoccupied have they been in their exhortation of Conservative policies and politicians over the last decade, that the established Church has given scant theological attention, either in public prayer or in intellectual study, to assessing and affirming the wealth-creating components of our competitive international market economy.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is reported to have declined to remark on Mr Blair's views. I hope he will make it plain, publicly, that there is still room in today's Church of England for Christians who believe in the spontaneous forces of society and the inability of governments to determine human destiny.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL WINDRIDGE,  
Ferdene,  
Broaden Lane, Hempsall, Norfolk,  
April 9.

From Mr Dominic Hobson

Sir, Philosophically, Mr Blair wants to have it both ways. He wants to be the liberal-relativist who does not force his opinions on anyone else, respects other faiths, relishes religious plurality, is baffled by sectarianism and refuses to decide whether Judas,

Pontius Pilate and Saint Peter were either good or bad. But he also wants to be the socialist-authoritarian who imposes a common set of values: "Unless boundaries are set and agreed, and judgments of good and bad made," he writes, "society cannot function well or fairly."

This contradiction bedevils all modern liberal thinking, and it would be unreasonable to expect a mere politician to resolve it. But we are entitled to ask which Mr Blair is likely to predominate in office. The *Sunday Telegraph* article suggests that it will be the socialist authoritarian. Mr Blair appears to be blind to the possibility that self-interested actions can benefit society, and to equate individualism with greed; people are of "equal" rather than "unique" worth; individuals have relationships not with each other but with "society" or "the community" or "the common good".

Most importantly, Mr Blair seems to think that we can fulfil our duty towards each other only through the political system, not through personal or corporate giving. By robbing people of the money to make choices the State diminishes personal responsibility and moral opportunity.

Despite the redundancy of such terms today Mr Blair persists in describing himself as a figure of the Left rather than of the Right. This cannot survive the revelation that he has now attracted the support even of the Archbishop of York.

Yours faithfully,  
DOMINIC HOBSON,  
62 Manchurch Road,  
Battersea, SW11,  
April 9.

From the Director of the Conservative Christian Fellowship

Sir, Your editorial warns of the dangers of bringing the Bible into politics. I would agree, and it is certainly true that the Bible does not give clear guidance on a lot of socio-economic issues raised by Mr Blair in his controversial interview.

It does give clear guidance on some issues, however, including abortion and homosexuality. The biblical messages are tough in these respects and do not have to be party political, but I would suggest that claims to a superior understanding of scripture from the modern Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, when they are so dominated by political correctness, must be very dubious.

Humanity is humbled by the need for Jesus's death on the Cross — politicians no less so. Any Christian in politics must treat opponents with love and charity therefore, but the way that the message should be delivered does not change the nature of the message.

Yours sincerely,  
TIM MONTGOMERIE,  
Director,  
Conservative Christian Fellowship,  
12b Widdowcombe Court,  
Lyttelton Road, N2,  
April 8.

## An outlaw for today

From Mr J. B. Booth

Sir, My great-grandfather, General William Booth, would have been amused to be likened to Robin Hood by Miss Clare Falvey (letter, March 30). He was certainly adept at persuading the well-off to contribute substantially to the Salvation Army's work for the suffering and needy. And he never gave up the fight.

In his last days he said: "I have been trying all my life to stretch out my arms so as to reach with one hand the poor, and at the same time keep in touch with the rich. But my arms are not long enough."

The object of this philanthropy was the same then as it is today: to alleviate despair and distress and to urge the recipient to seek God's help in redirecting his or her life. Setting up the People's Mission, which later became the Salvation Army, William declared: "No one gets a blessing if they have cold feet and nobody ever got saved while they had toothache!"

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BOOTH,  
10 Wynford Green,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,  
April 2.

## Spelling it out

From Mr R. J. Harrington

Sir, BSE? Blame Somebody Else.

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. HARRINGTON,  
7 Elven Lane,  
East Dean, Eastbourne, Sussex,  
April 8.

## Easter parade

From Mr Barry Shooter

Sir, I am a community pharmacist who provides a 365 days a year service to the obvious benefit of my customers, staff and my business.

It is less obvious to me as to why the London Borough of Havering on Easter Sunday should have provided a mechanised street-cleaner service for myself and my neighbours in the quiet cul-de-sac in which we live.

I was equally baffled as to why at noon on Easter Monday the London Borough of Redbridge should have dispatched traffic wardens to the then sleepy suburban shopping parade on which my pharmacy is situated.

Yours sincerely,  
BARRY SHOOTER,  
155 Manford Way, Chigwell, Essex,  
April 8.

## Target date

From Mr R. B. Cruse

Sir, Building a national millennium exhibition at Greenwich is a fine idea. But the current speed of construction of the British Library and the Channel Tunnel rail link suggest that an immediate start must be made if we are to complete the project by the year 3000.

Yours faithfully,  
R. B. CRUSE,  
3 Albert Road,  
New Milton, Hampshire,  
April 9.

## Crossword times

From Mr Oliver Gillie

Sir, Mrs Mary Mathews (letter, April 1) surely draws the wrong conclusion about the number of heads and their relative effectiveness in solving your crossword puzzles. In this house, the two of us find that by combining forces we improve our effectiveness by an order of magnitude, and I know this to be true for many others.

The conclusion must be that the serious solvers, the greyhounds of the discipline so to speak, are so far ahead of the rest of us that they spurn co-operation as transforming a modest problem into a trivial one.

I envy and salute them.

Yours faithfully,  
OLIVER GILLIE,  
126 Court Lane, SE21,  
April 1.







OBITUARIES

# PROFESSOR MATTHEW HODGART

Matthew Hodgart, Professor of English, Sussex University, 1964-70, died on April 3 aged 79. He was born on September 1, 1916.

A shy and private man, Matthew Hodgart presented an apparently impermeable exterior to the outside world. Those who came to know him, however, and (better still) to understand his mind and imagination, found that his quirky wit, formidable erudition and diverse interests combined to make him always a reliable source of help. His passionate interest in ideas, sound judgment of writing and entertaining conversation made him also an enjoyable companion. His life and work could be said to represent a characteristic note in the variety of British intellectual life at the close of the 20th century.

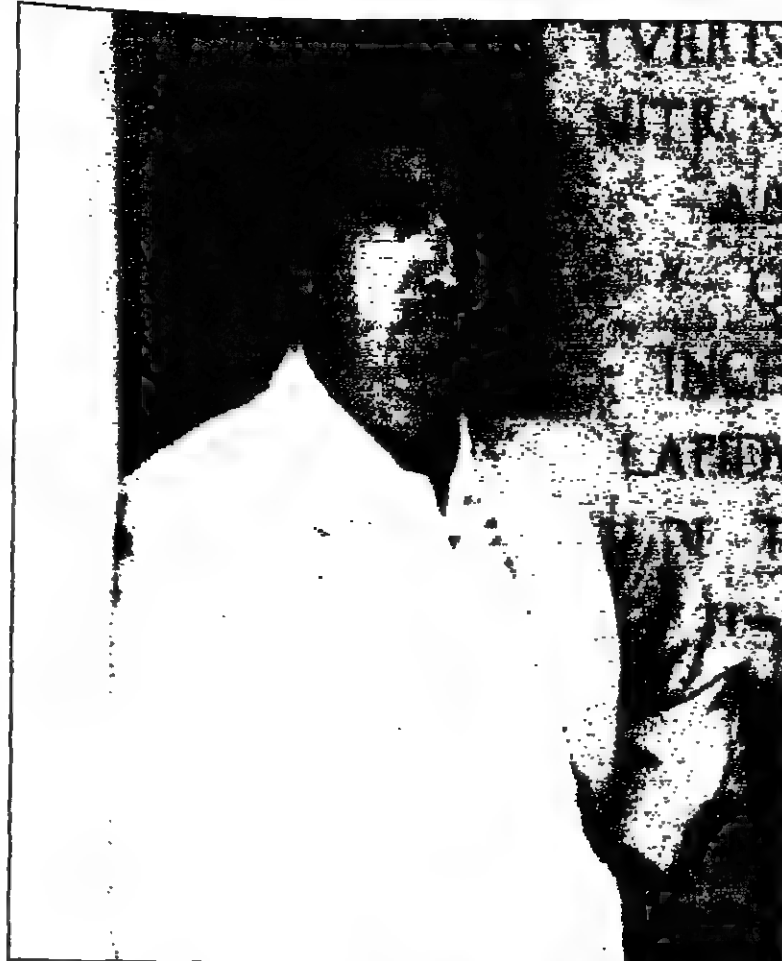
Matthew John Caldwell Hodgart was born in Paisley, the son of another Matthew Hodgart, a partner in a substantial firm of engineers, and Katherine Barbour Caldwell of a long-established local family of lawyers. From this heritage he may have drawn his knowledgeable rapport with the lairds and lawyers of 18th-century Scotland and, in particular, with James Boswell in Dr Johnson's circle. The same parental source could well have supplied his mathematical interests and skill in problem-solving.

His comfortable family background allowed him to be educated at Rugby School as a scholar and then to go on again as a scholar to Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1935. He was an outstanding student and, after his BA in 1938, was awarded a Jebb Studentship to start postgraduate study.

In those last years of the Thirties, however, the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War and the misery of mass unemployment — accompanied by the shameless appeasement of the dictators — drove very many able and sensitive students at Cambridge and other universities into Marxist views (not least because these alone seemed to offer some possibility of relieving an apparently hopeless situation).

Matthew Hodgart was elected to the elitist social and discussion group, the Apostles, by then politicised to a degree, and within the Society (as its members like to call it) became part of an outstanding and talented group. He was also noted as an effective speaker for the Left in the Cambridge Union. Later he was sharply to revise his political convictions and to come to regret the part he had played in Cambridge politics. The outbreak of war in 1939 interrupted his academic career.

He was commissioned into The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and served in the Mediterranean, French North Africa and in Corsica. For his work in intelligence he was mentioned in dispatches; in 1945 the French Government recognised his service with the Special Operations Executive by appointing him a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur and by



awarding him the Croix de Guerre. In the same year he concluded his military service in India, and returned to Cambridge as an assistant lecturer in English, becoming Lecturer and Fellow of Pembroke College in 1949. He was a loyal member of the college, serving as wine steward and librarian, reflecting another two of his interests.

Hodgart was also a popular member of the Cambridge English Faculty, and an excellent teacher for pupils who knew what they were doing. His tutorials covered the breadth of the Cambridge English Tripos, from Chaucer and the Ballads to modern writing. He was a good example of a generalist: his encyclopaedic knowledge of English literature and rigorous examination of arguments, his own included, were challenges in discussion.

The students whom he taught, or whose work he supervised, numbered among them many of the best writers and scholars of the time, including Ted Hughes, the present Poet Laureate, and the formidable Harold Bloom. The latter was one of the many visiting Americans in Cambridge whose friendship he gained — and later maintained as they became influential critics and scholars — and through whom he pursued a keen interest in America and American literature and thought. From his teaching came a number of books, couched in the deceptively simple format of introductory treatments, but which were often

original, deftly written and seriously thoughtful.

His first volume was *The Ballads* (1950, revised 1962), which was a landmark in the developing interest in, and widespread appreciation of, folk-song, which marked the 1950s and 1960s: he developed this further in his widely read collection *The Faber Book of Ballads* (1965) which also includes Broadside, Irish, Australian and American ballads. He had a particular sympathy with 18th-century Scottish and English writing, represented by his excellent *Samuel Johnson* (1962) and a useful selection of Horace Walpole's *Memoirs and Portraits* (1963).

He was a much respected member of the Johnson Club of London and a president of the Johnson Club of Lichfield. A modest-looking but wide-ranging volume, *Saunders* (1969, several translations), also presents visual material about which he was extremely knowledgeable, and escapes the pedantry of form-criticism by a subtle discussion of the satiric temperament as a human characteristic. He also contributed to the *Review of English Studies*, *TLS* and the *New York Review of Books*.

Hodgart's wide reading and formidable scholarship were often united in his interest in puzzles and problems in order to give plausible readings of difficult passages. In 1955, when Robert Graves in his final Clark Lecture munificently offered a £1 note to

anyone who could make sense of "the opening stanza of Dylan Thomas's *If my head hurt a hair's foot*," he notes in the printed version of his lecture that "the ingenious Mr M. J. C. Hodgart of Pembroke... has stepped forward to claim the reward".

Graves, though, by publishing the lecture, remained master of the field. He declared that "there are flaws" in Hodgart's argument and adhered to his view that "the five lines taken as a whole remain nonsensical", thereby saving himself a pound. Yet the reader of *The Crowning Privilege* may well think that Hodgart's suggestion has much more merit than that: it certainly gives a line to the sense of Dylan Thomas's poem.

Hodgart's skill in reading was also put to use in handling James Joyce's text, not only in discussion and lectures, but in two informative volumes: the first (with Professor Michael P. Worthington), *Song in the Works of James Joyce* (1959), an early and formative treatment of an important topic, and the second, *James Joyce: Student Guide* (1978). A third volume (with Professor Ruth Bauerle), *Joyce's Grand Opera: Opera in Finnegans Wake*, will appear later this year. Music was one of the interests he followed up thoroughly and seriously.

In 1964 Hodgart left Cambridge, and began a series of teaching stints in different universities, often at the invitation of former colleagues and students. From 1964 to 1970 he was a Professor of English at Sussex, moving to live in a villa in the last group of Regency houses to be built in Brighton.

His teaching there was notable for a popular history and literature seminar on Joyce and Ireland, which he conducted with Professor Hugh Kearney, and which is remembered for its annual Bloomsday celebration on June 16. He was Visiting Professor at Cornell University in 1961-62 and in 1969; Professor of English at the then Concordia University in Montreal, 1970-76; Visiting Professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, 1977-78; at Stanford in 1979; at La Trobe in Australia, 1979-80; and Hinkley Professor of English at Johns Hopkins in 1982.

His second visit to Cornell at the height of the student discontent in American universities in the 1960s resulted in a *Jeu d'esprit*, which ties in with his own student political activity at Cambridge, his interest in the 18th century and his fascination with satire: this was his brief volume *A New Voyage* (1969), a "fifth voyage" of Lemuel Gulliver who in it returns to Houyhnhnmland to find that the progressive young horses are unwisely arguing for the ending of the age-old injustice to the Yahoos by admitting them to the Assembly.

In 1940 he married Betty Joyce Hensstridge, who died in 1948. In 1949 he married, secondly, Margaret Patricia Elliott. She survives him, together with a son and daughter of his first marriage and an adopted daughter of his second.

# GROUP CAPTAIN LARRY OSBORNE

Group Captain Larry Osborne, OBE, navigator, air traffic controller and supply specialist, died on March 12 aged 73. He was born on December 27, 1922.



THE first black officer to reach the rank he did in the Royal Air Force, Larry Osborne was also one of the most charismatic officers in the service of his time. From a modest upbringing in the West Indies, he went on to serve in numerous capacities during and after the war, first as a navigator, then in air traffic control and finally, when his sight deteriorated, in the Equipment Branch. There he was responsible for the computerisation of the RAF's supply system.

Lawrence Theodore Osborne was born in Trinidad and joined the RAF in 1943 as a navigator. His desire to fly stemmed from an early interest in astronomy and the report he built up with Coastal Command crews operating Hudson reconnaissance aircraft from Trinidad during the Battle of the Atlantic. His initial training was in spare time and was thus able to conduct negotiations with the Germans in their own language. At Rheindalen, he also pursued his penchant for amateur dramatics, and he enjoyed taking a leading part in station productions. He also took part twice in the gruelling Nijmegen Marches, covering 100km in four days in full battlekit. He was posted back to the UK in 1961.

Following a tour in the Air Ministry, Osborne was posted in 1963 to RAF Valley in Anglesey where he learnt enough Welsh to become a member of the Holyhead Mixed Choir. He made many Welsh friends, with whom he always kept in touch. In 1966 he was posted to the headquarters of RAF Maintenance Command at Andover. It was there that he had the responsibility for introducing the RAF's new computerised supply system into the main depots. His team soon became known unofficially as the Black and White Minstrel Show, a title he happily adopted. This career took him on several tours before he attended the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, in 1958. This was followed by a posting to HQ 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force at Rheindalen in Germany. In

addition to his normal duties, he was a part-time member of the Anglo-German Technical Commission. As such, he was engaged in the training and resupply of the fledgling post-war German Air Force. Typically he was not a man to put in the garden. Apart from taking an Open University degree, he moved into supply training with the Crown Agents where he made an immediate impact, bringing with him from the RAF his experience, communication skills and an infectious sense of humour. In 1984 he was a founder member of Finchfields Consultants which, among other things, worked on training courses for British Aerospace, and he continued to impart his knowledge on supply and control matters to various firms both at home and overseas until he retired in 1991.

When he did finally retire, Osborne was able to continue his hobbies of reading languages, electronics and walking. He will be remembered for his endless energy at work and his sense of humour. As far as his colour was concerned, he always said: "If people retain their prejudice after knowing me for a short while, it's probably my fault for failing to impress my personality on them." It was a credit to the RAF and all those he knew that this was never an issue.

Larry Osborne is survived by his wife Theodora, whom he met before leaving Trinidad, and by three sons.

# BEN JOHNSON

Ben Johnson, actor and rodeo rider, died on April 8 aged 77. He was born on June 13, 1918.

BEN JOHNSON'S ease with horses and authentic Oklahoma drawl made him a god-send for directors of westerns, and a rarity among actors, some of whom looked distinctly nervous in a saddle. Like Gary Cooper, he had grown up on a ranch and was an

excellent horseman and cowboy. In the early 1970s he surprised many of those who had underrated his acting abilities when he effortlessly walked away with an Oscar for his role as Sam the Lion in *The Last Picture Show*.

Benjamin Franklin Johnson Jr — known as Uncle Ben — was born in Forker near Pawhuska in Oklahoma. John Ford later called him the best thing to come out of that state

since Will Rogers. Johnson worked on a ranch, and was a seasoned rodeo performer when he rode into Oklahoma City on the back of a palomino to enter a show. A scout for Howard Hughes was impressed by the horse and asked if he could use it in Hughes's new film, *The Outlaw*. Johnson agreed if he could go along as the beast's groom and in the event he looked after 18 of the film's

horses. *The Outlaw*, however, was to gain more notoriety for the bra-less bosom of its leading lady Jane Russell than for the horses, and the censors held it up for six years before allowing it to be released. Johnson's riding skills had by then been noticed and applauded by another former cowboy, Gary Cooper, who casted Johnson's passage into the Screen Actors Guild. Johnson worked for a while as a

stuntman and attracted John Ford's attention on the set of *Fort Apache* where he singlehandedly rounded up a team of runaway horses. Ford liked to use men who did not overact and, just as he encouraged John Wayne to build a career on being John Wayne, so he went to some lengths to find Johnson the right vehicles for his talents. Johnson was photogenic and natural in front of a camera, but modest about his formal acting abilities: "Lord help me if they ever ask me to do anything except be myself."

He supported Wayne in three Ford films — *Three Godfathers*, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (both 1949) and *Rio Grande* (1950) — often literally standing in the Duke's shadow, before being given the lead in Ford's *Wagonmaster* (1950) about the adventures of a Mormon wagon-train heading towards Utah in 1879. There followed supporting roles in countless westerns, from the classic *Shane* (1952) to some fairly forgettable examples of the genre for television. He reached a peak in the 1960s, still in Wayne's shadow, but more weathered now, and confident enough of his screen persona to give it a slight twist. Just as Wayne played a paunchy, irritable old mar-

shal in *True Grit*, so Johnson injected his later cowboys with an air of restiveness.

Given his past form, he was understandably surprised in the early 1970s to be offered the plum role in a modern film, that of Sam the Lion, owner of the pool hall, diner and picture house in *The Last Picture Show*. Peter Bogdanovich's film was intended as a tribute to film-makers like John Ford and to the dying values of small-town America. Bogdanovich saw Johnson as the repository of such values — independence and strength of character. Ford, by now an old man, had to persuade Johnson to waive his objections to the film's language and nudity and Johnson turned in a strong performance, winning an Oscar for best supporting actor.

He continued to make the odd film thereafter, and received his star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame two years ago. But he spent his last years alone with his mother in Phoenix, Arizona, and was so far detached from the film community that some commentators had already begun to refer to him as the "late Ben Johnson". His wife Carol, whom he married in 1941, predeceased him. There were no children. He is survived by his mother and sister.



Ben Johnson as Sam the Lion in *The Last Picture Show*, 1971

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## Variation ineffective after transfer Pedlar traded unlawfully in street

### Wilson and Others v St Helens Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Mummery, Mr D. J. Jenkins and Mrs M. E. Sunderland  
[Judgment March 28]

Where the operative reason for a variation in terms of employment was a transfer of an undertaking, the variation was ineffective even if the employees had accepted and worked under the varied terms, and the terms of the original contract of employment with the transferor remained in force.

Accordingly, teachers at a school transferred from the county council to the borough council who had accepted new contracts with less favourable terms of employment were entitled to be paid the higher wages payable under their contracts with the county council.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing appeals by Mr R. Wilson and others from the dismissal by a Liverpool Industrial Tribunal last May of their claims against St Helens Borough Council that the council had made unlawful deductions from their wages in contravention of section 1 of the Wages Act 1986.

The tribunal had dismissed the claims on the ground that the employees' agreement to the new contracts had effectively varied their terms of employment and the council were not in breach of the Wages Act in failing to pay what was due to the applicants under their previous contracts.

Regulation 5 of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of

Employment) Regulations (SI 1981 No 294) provides:

"(1) ... a relevant transfer shall not operate so as to terminate the contract of employment of any person employed by the transferor in the undertaking ... but any such contract which would otherwise have been terminated by the transfer shall have effect after the transfer as if originally made between the person so employed and the transferee."

Mr Nicholas Randall and Ms Jennifer Eady for the teachers; Mr Alan Wilkie, QC and Mr Simon Gorton for the council.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the Red Bank Controlled Community Home provided education and care for boys who had committed offences or had other behavioural problems which had led to them being placed in care. The applicants were employed there as teachers or carers.

The school was formerly owned by trustees and controlled by Lancashire County Council. In October 1992 the school was transferred to the borough council and the applicants started to work pursuant to new contracts.

The applicants claimed before the industrial tribunal that as a result of the transfer of an undertaking they were being paid a reduced salary in breach of the 1981 Regulations and in the circumstances the council were making unlawful deductions from their salaries in contravention of section 1 of the Wages Act.

The tribunal dismissed the claims. It found that although the employees had not expressly

agreed to any variation after the transfer they had worked without protest, accepting the new salaries, job titles and duties. Thus the tribunal found they had affirmed the new contracts.

In *Forrester v Daddy's Dance Hall A/S* (1988) ECR 739 the European Court of Justice stressed that the purpose of the acquired rights directive, EC Council Directive 77/187 (OJ 1977 L61/26) was to ensure that the rights resulting from a contract of employment of employees affected by the transfer were safeguarded.

Since that protection was a matter of public policy and independent of the will of the parties to the contract the rules of the directive had to be considered mandatory so that it was not possible to derogate from them in a manner unfavourable to employees. It followed that the rights conferred on employees could not be restricted even with their consent.

The industrial tribunal had erred in law in holding there had been an effective variation in the terms of employment so as to preclude them from making claims under the 1986 Act.

An unauthorised deduction from wages was a contravention of section 1 of the Wages Act. The crucial question was what was the total amount of the wages properly payable to the employees?

Was it, as the employees contended, what was due to them under the terms of their contracts with the county council, or was it, as the borough council contended, what was due to them under the

terms of their employment with them which contained variations of the previous terms?

It was common ground that the provisions of the 1981 Regulations had to be construed, if it were possible to do so without distortion of language, to conform with the provisions of the directive.

The crucial point was the identity of the reason for the alteration of the terms of employment which the employees had with the county council. The terms of regulation 5(1) were mandatory protection for employees on a transfer.

The European Court had held in *Daddy's Dance Hall* that the policy of the directive, and therefore of the implementing 1981 Regulations, precluded even a consensual variation in the terms of the contract if the transfer of the undertaking was the reason for the variation.

It was clear from the findings of fact by the tribunal that the reason for the alteration was the transfer. The law, surprising though it might be to the English legal tradition, was clear.

If the operative reason for the variation was the transfer of the undertaking, then the variation would be ineffective. That was the position in the present case and the terms of employment with the county council remained in force.

The appeal would be allowed and the matter remitted to the tribunal to determine individual entitlement.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Brian Thompson & Partners, Liverpool; Mrs Vivien Horne, St Helens.

### Stevens Borough Council v Wright

Before Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Iain Gildewell  
[Judgment April 2]

A person who stood in one place for an hour selling goods from a bag at his feet and attracting people's attention to come to him to buy, was selling from a pitch and was not acting as a pedlar within the meaning of section 3 of the Pedlars Act 1871, despite holding a pedlar's certificate.

Accordingly, he was not exempt from the prohibition against street trading contained in paragraph 10(1) of Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, by virtue of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 4.

The absence of a stall was not determinative of the question whether the seller was acting as a pedlar rather than a street trader. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, allowing Stevens Borough Council's appeal by case stated from the decision of the St Helens Justices who, on February 25, 1995, acquitted Monty Wright of engaging in street trading in a prohibited street, contrary to paragraph 10(1) of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act.

Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act provides: "(1) ... 'street trading' means, subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article ... in a street."

"(2) The following are not street trading for the purposes of this Schedule—(a) trading by a person acting as a pedlar under the authority of a pedlar's certificate granted under the Pedlars Act 1871 ..."

Mr Simon Bird for the council; the defendant did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the term "pedlar" was defined in section 3 of the 1871 Act as "any hawker, pedlar, petty chapman, tinkler, cester of metals, mender of chairs, or other person who, without any horse or other beast drawing burden, travels and trades on foot and goes from town to town or to other men's houses, carrying to sell or exposing for sale any goods, wares or merchandise, or procuring orders for goods, wares or merchandise immediately to be delivered, or selling or offering for sale his skill in handicraft ..."

The justices found that the defendant had a valid pedlar's certificate that on the relevant date he was in a prohibited street for two and a half hours; that he was stationary for at least an hour, selling wrapping paper from a large shopping bag at his feet; and that the bag had a sign on its side and the defendant called out to passers-by to attract their attention.

The justices were thereby satisfied saying that the defendant had set up a pitch from which to sell his wares.

After being referred to *Watson v Molloy* (1958) 1 WLR 1026, the justices concluded that the trading practice of the defendant was that of a pedlar and that he fell within the proviso of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act. In so doing they found it material that he was not trading from a stall and that he was entitled to stop to trade.

The headnote in *Watson v Molloy* emphasised that a pedlar was not a person who sold from a stall. But that was not necessarily implicit in the decision. Although the traders in that case made use of a stall, the court did not indicate that that fact was in any way determinative.

Whereas the use of a stall was not determinative, the fact that a seller equipped himself with a stall, stand, or bag by which his goods were borne might indicate an intention to set up a pitch from which his business could be conducted.

In determining the nature of the seller's trading practices and the nature of his conduct while stationary for the purposes of selling it was necessary to consider the length of time for which a person was in one place and what he did while in that place.

His Lordship derived little assistance from aphorisms about "travelling to trade".

### Life-style relevance in drug possession case

Regina v Scott

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny and Judge Gower  
[Judgment March 21]

Special facts in a case might affect the principle that evidence of money or lifestyle was irrelevant on a charge of possessing drugs with intent to supply, where the only issue was possession.

Their Lordships so stated when dismissing the appeal of John David Scott against his conviction on September 14, 1994 in Preston Crown Court (Judge Townsend and a jury) of possessing class B and class C drugs, amphetamine and temazepam, with intent to supply.

Mr Percy Wood, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr J. D. S. Whist for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that in February 1993 police officers stopped a car. The appellant was in the front passenger seat and another man, Jackson, in the back with a holdall on his knees. The officers found a black bin liner near where Jackson was sitting.

The holdall contained 447gm of amphetamine with a street value of about £4,470. The bin liner contained 284 temazepam tablets with a street value of £2 to £5 each and polythene bags containing 292gm of amphetamine with a street value of about £2,920.

When interviewed, the appellant denied all knowledge of the drugs. Jackson admitted knowing that the holdall contained drugs and said that he was looking after it for the appellant. He said he knew nothing about the bin liner or its contents.

At the time of his arrest the appellant had £310 on him; Jackson had only 38 pence. Between November 11, 1992 and February 5, 1993 Scott had paid wages totalling £12,290 into three building societies.

Evidence was adduced at trial that Scott's house had been searched on two occasions. Scales and other paraphernalia such as bags containing amphetamine were found.

Once again the court was concerned with the question whether, and if so how, possession of money was relevant on a charge of

possessing drugs with intent to supply.

Their Lordships had been referred to 12 decisions in the Court of Appeal from May 1993 to June 1995, the earliest of which was *R v Wright* (1994) Crim LR 55 and the latest *R v Halpin* (1995) Crim LR 112.

Two features of the present case made it unusual if not unique in the catalogue of the last few years: 1 From the start of the trial it was only possession that was in dispute, not the intent to supply, which could be readily inferred from the quantities of drugs found.

2 There was in effect a cut-throat defence.

What featured in all of the 12 cases referred to was money. Since the issue in the present case was possession, their Lordships readily accepted that following the decision in *Halpin*, evidence of money or lifestyle and other extraneous matters would in the ordinary way have been irrelevant. But there were special facts which were said to lead to a different conclusion.

First, there was a close match between the amphetamine found

in the car and that in the appellant's house. Second, there were similarities between the plastic bags in the car and those in the house. In their Lordships' judgment that evidence was relevant.

Whether the judge should have excluded it from the prosecution case because its prejudicial effect exceeded its probative value did not matter, since counsel for the appellant, Jackson, was entitled to rely on all the disputed evidence as affecting Scott's credibility.

That included evidence of Scott's previous conviction for possessing amphetamine and also the money, scales and other paraphernalia. To the extent that those items tended to show that he had been a possessor and supplier of drugs in the past, as they certainly did, they could be relied on by Jackson as reflecting on Scott's credibility.

At the end of the day no evidence was admitted which should not have been before the jury for one reason or another, and the judge's summing up, while not perfect, was in no way unfair. The conviction was not unsafe.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Burnley.

### Charges should reflect gravity

#### Regina v Clark (Raymond Dennis)

Where in the case of sexual offences the acts complained of constituted a regular course of conduct over some time, prosecutors should charge sufficient offences fairly to reflect the gravity of the offending.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Henry, Mr Justice Allott and Mr Justice Owen) so held on February 28, in a reserved judgment, allowing the appeal against sentence of Raymond Dennis Clark, who had been convicted at Isleworth Crown Court (Judge Miller and a jury) on a single count of indecent assault on a male person and was sentenced to five years imprisonment. The sentence was reduced to two years.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said

that the single count with which the appellant had been charged had been put forward as a specimen or sample count, reflecting a series of offences over the period in question. The appellant never at any time admitted any sexual offence within the period covered by the indictment. Counsel for the appellant submitted that the judge was not entitled to sentence on the basis of a series of offences.

Section 31(2) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 defined offences associated with the offence charged, as being limited to offences of which the offender was convicted, or admitted and requested the court to take into consideration when sentencing.

His Lordship suggested that prosecutors should charge sufficient offences to reflect the criminality of the offending.

### Offences against environment

#### Shanks McEwan (Midlands) Ltd v Wrexham Maelor Borough Council

Any person and not only the licence holder was liable to prosecution for contravention of a condition attached to a waste management licence.


The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Iain Gildewell) so stated on March 18 when allowing an appeal by Shanks McEwan (Midlands) Ltd against conviction by Wrexham Justices on July 20, 1995 under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for contravention of a condition in their waste management licence requiring all wastes to be covered with uncontaminated soil at the end of each working day. The appellant was the licence holder, while another company operated the site.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that section 33(6) of the 1990 Act, by using the words "a person" rendered liable to prosecution anyone who was in contravention of a condition of a waste management licence. The scheme of the Act contemplated the person who was in actual occupation of the site. In practice that was the operator.

In the present case the wording of the licence reflected the statutory dictionary between the licence holder and the operator. The condition which was the subject of the charge related to operational matters.

For a person to contravene any condition of a licence it was necessary for that person to be the person by whom the offence was committed. The licence holder who was not the operator could not be guilty of the offence.

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Why has the BBC been so slow to capitalise on an opportunity — which has always existed — to increase its revenue?

## A licence to make more money



BRENDA MADDOX

Stepping over the threshold of my second home in Wales (the Land of My Father-in-Law, let me hasten to say), I trod on the dusty envelope delivered through the cat flap by the postman. A delicately worded missive, it came from the TV Licensing Centre in Bristol. It was addressed to those residing where they may have a separate licence in the belief that they were covered by the licence at another (main) address.

I paid up. Indeed, we tried to pay when we first got the place, assuming that a second roof required a second licence. Positively not, came the official response. Unless we were inhabiting two houses simultaneously and watching two sets at once, one licence did for both. Now it does so no longer.

Some are outraged at this double levy. Not me. With the rise of satellite TV that costs well over £200 a year, and with the unstop-

public emergence of pay-per-view, the licence fee looks a modest tariff for quite a lot.

My question is why the BBC took so long to spot this obvious source of new revenue? Apparently the Beeb woke up only after *Which?* alerted those head-eyed people who read the small print in search of their consumer rights that they might be entitled to a refund on their second licence.

Though all refunds already promised will be paid, the BBC is now due for a modest windfall. With an estimated 38,000 households now required to buy a second colour licence at the new rate (since this month of £89.50, it will take in an extra £340,000 a year. What a pity it did not spot the opportunity years ago.

It is a greater pity the BBC has allowed so much human misery to be inflicted in its name on those who cannot afford to pay the fine for non-payment of the licence fee. Last week a television researcher phoned me to ask whether I were a feminist (they needed one for a discussion). But I was too "on the one hand, on the other hand" to qualify. He should have rung a day later, after I learnt the statistics on women jailed for failing to pay TV fines.

What except a gross bias against the female can explain the fact that women are eight times as likely to be jailed for this offence as are men? In 1995, Prison Service figures show, 19,541 men were convicted of fine defaulting. Of these, 4,001 went to prison. Of the

508 women found guilty of the same offence, 241 were locked up — babies in arms, children being put into care and others to pay by small instalments notwithstanding. The maximum penalty for non-payment is £1,000 but the fines in these hardship cases were as low

as £70. The plight of these jailed defaulters worked its way not only into the plot of *Coronation Street* but even reached the heart of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who now says that imprisonment will be used only in exceptional circumstances. But Virginia Bonomey, the Heritage Secretary, fears that without the criminal penalties, mass evasion will result.

Not true, surely? Fines and community service work as a deterrent for other civil offences. Here is a task for Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's new, superbly bright chairman: designing a socially useful penalty for fee evaders. How about reading to the blind? Unless, that is, the blind are fee-evaders themselves. This is no

joke. There is a special discount on the television licence for the registered blind: £1.25.

Sir Christopher is now puzzling how best to use his five-year term. The danger is that, with his depth of commercial experience, he will throw his energies into pushing the BBC to earn more money. He should instead dedicate himself to saving the licence fee, which the new BBC charter guarantees for only five years.

One simple step would be to rename the damned thing. Either add "and radio" to the fee or delete "television". As it stands, "TV licence" is a misnomer, encouraging those who watch only ITV but also listen to BBC Radio 1 to feel cheated.

Then he might declare some

home truths, such as the following:

- There is no visible substitute for it. Some day the BBC will be able to scramble its services, even radio, so that only subscribers will pay. But not soon.
- The BBC will never be able to earn more than pin money from its commercial operations.
- The BBC is an essential service. The social services should assist those who cannot afford it.
- If more of the estimated 1.8 million evaders (compared with 21 million payers) were caught, the BBC could afford to be more generous to those for whom the fee is a hardship.
- "Does not suffer fools gladly" is the description most frequently applied to Sir Christopher. Who, therefore, is better qualified to proclaim from on high the plainest truths of all? That £89.50 a year is not enough and that those who say they never watch nor listen to the BBC are probably lying.

## How to sell the euro

Simon Brooke on the advertising challenge of a single currency

The passion and the complex issues surrounding the UK's possible participation in a European single currency prove beyond doubt that selling a political message is not, as was once suggested, basically like selling soap powder.

The Times asked a number of leading advertising agencies and public relations consultants to imagine that the referendum on Britain's adoption of the euro was under way and that they had been retained by either the "yes" or the "no" camps to produce advertisements and to develop a communications strategy.

Britain's single currency opt-out means that the Treasury has "no plans as yet" to devise a communications programme, and the European Commission "has decided that information should be demand-led, rather than in the form of an active programme". However, across Europe governments are already appointing communications companies to explain to the public what a single currency means and how it will benefit them.

In Paris the corporate advertising agency Kendo has been retained by the French Ministry of Economics to produce a long-term communications programme until the year 2002. The German Federal Government has appointed advertising agency Von Mannstein Werbeagentur to develop a DM15 million (£6.6 million) media campaign breaking at the end of May.



THE EURO.  
SO SIMPLE A CHILD CAN UNDERSTAND IT.

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?

How McCann-Erickson would tackle a pro-European single currency campaign in the run-up to a referendum

"It's going to be the biggest and most difficult job for any advertising agency for at least the past ten years," says Kate Marber, European development director at TBWA in London. "Currency is the brand of all brands, it's a national touchstone, and at a time when people feel that their national identity is being stripped away they'll be loath to lose it." She believes that to educate and reassure people, the campaign must be "global" — "in other words, it will need Europe-wide co-ordination but must be able to tap into the concerns of the man or woman in the street."

David Longman, marketing director at McCann-Erickson, also highlights the importance of bringing issues down to the level of ordinary people. "We discovered that business doesn't like currency fluctuations, and once the public understand that, they can see the value of a single currency."

However, McCann, a decidedly pro-European agency whose advertising campaign to raise funds and awareness for the cross-party European

Movement breaks later this week, believes that enthusiasm for the euro can only come about if the British become better Europeans.

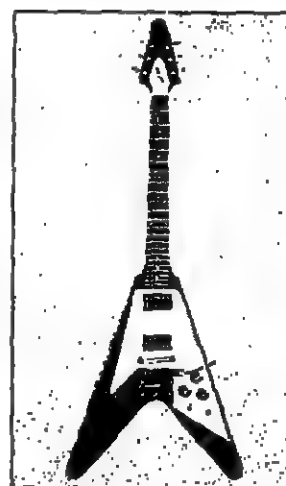
If appointed to the "no" camp, Simon Milton of political communications consultancy APCO UK would also like to fight a positive campaign. "We could have the paradoxical situation of the 'yeses' running a negative campaign along the lines of the world will come to an end if we stay out. I would

therefore favour a campaign showing that we can have a successful future outside a single currency. This will need to be supported by personal endorsements from prominent industrialists, customers of British export, other European political figures and people who can demonstrate that Britain can continue to prosper even if the others go ahead without us."

However, most commentators note that many London advertising and PR agencies will be hoping that Britain does accept the euro, if only for the business opportunities it brings.

## Bonhams bids for the masses

One of Britain's auction houses is dusting down its snooty image. Alex Benady reports



Jimi Hendrix's guitar fetched £50,600

Why are people still intimidated by the leading auctioneers? Here is a task for Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's new, superbly bright chairman: designing a socially useful penalty for fee evaders. How about reading to the blind? Unless, that is, the blind are fee-evaders themselves. This is no

But now Bonhams — one of Britain's "big four" auctioneers, along with Sotheby's, Christie's and Phillips — wants to open up the dusty world of the UK auction industry and gain access to what it sees as a vast and virtually untapped market.

Veronica Kruger, Bonhams' director of marketing, says: "The rational advantages of buying at auction are immense. You can buy good quality furniture for less than shop prices, and instead of the value slumping when you get it home, it will probably appreciate. Yet about 98 per cent of the population never use auctions."

The comparison with retailers is key to the Bonhams approach. The UK auction industry is worth about £1 billion a year. The furniture industry is worth £9 billion and serves the entire adult population, so Bonhams plans to gain access to that more valuable and populous marketplace by adopting many of its conventions. It is now promoting itself on a platform of openness, informality and enthusiastic service — just like the better furniture stores.

The process has involved Bonhams in a complete cultural overhaul. Gone is the feel of a gentleman's club at its Knightsbridge showroom. "The building," says Ms Kruger, "is now deliberately very

airy and inviting. It is stylish without being overbearing."

And in an initiative that will be appreciated by anybody who has experienced the snooty indifference of some of the other auctioneers, all staff from heads of department to porters are now trained to be courteous and sympathetic to everybody, "no matter how dim their questions may seem," says Ms Kruger.

The point is to make the whole experience as un-intimidating as possible for both buyers and sellers. Buyers in particular need reassurance — many people still believe the old canard that if you sneeze at an auction you could accidentally land yourself with an expensive lot.

To ensure that working people as well as the very rich and the antiques trade get a look in, viewing times are increasingly out of office hours. Bonhams' Knights-

bridge now opens at 7.30 on Tuesday mornings while Bonhams Chelsea has viewing all day on Sunday — to the accompaniment of a pianist.

These small things are evidence of an ethos summed up in the slogan which will run in all its marketing material, devised by newly appointed advertising agency Adventus — "You're worth more to us."

Despite being one of the big four, Bonhams has a turnover of only £40 million compared with the £1 billion worldwide of Sotheby's and Christie's, and the £90 million of Phillips. Ms Kruger says: "Because we are smaller every lot is relatively more important to us. And in the case of, say, a £100,000 lot, which would be medium size for the others, we really do pull out all the stops."

Bonhams has carved out a specialist market for itself in buoyant sectors such as contemporary ceramics, which are too small for the bigger auctioneers to cover in depth. It also pioneered themed auctions — "Cats and Dogs in Art" was timed to coincide with Crufts.

Technology is playing an important role in the Bonhams renaissance. It was one of the first to put its catalogues on CD-ROM, and now plans to exploit its database in a far more sophisticated manner to produce buyers and sellers.

The efforts by Bonhams to expand the joys of buying at auction into the mid market seem to be working. Ms Kruger says: "We are increasingly getting young professional couples buying just to furnish their homes."

## Nothing is sacred to a news editor

The 'row' over Tony Blair's religious views was never more than a news stunt, says Roy Greenslade

Perhaps Labour's renowned spin-doctors will need to take holy orders. Then again, would a team of spin-doctors have foreseen the impact of Tony Blair talking candidly to a newspaper about his religious beliefs? Surely, they would not have imagined the press turning Mr Blair's perfectly straight-forward interview into a front-page story?

Yet that is what came to pass. Mr Blair's seemingly unsensational views on Christianity, as related to *The Sunday Telegraph*, were translated into an attack on the Tory party. He was accused of being "holier than

thou" (*Daily Mail* and *Daily Express*), of being "embroidered in a row" (*The Daily Telegraph*) or, more hyperbolically, "a fierce political storm" (*Daily Mail*), having "enraged Tories" (*The Times*) and "provoked furious Tory criticism" (*The Guardian*).

At times such as these, to heed the advice of my old Sunday school teacher, it is wise to sit quietly in a corner and read the words of the scriptures carefully until one has divined the meaning. It proved instructive. The storm was of the tea-cup variety. The fury was decidedly synthetic. It was, according to the teachings of every decent news

editor I have known, a non-story.

The articles all depended on a journalistic interpretation of a single quote from Mr Blair: "My view of Christian values led me to oppose what I perceived to be the narrow self-interest that Conservatism — particularly its modern, more right-wing form — represents." The essentially personal nature of this observation was clear because, at the outset of his testament, Mr Blair said unequivocally: "I do not believe that Christians should only vote Labour."

But that did not stop *The Sunday Telegraph* from kicking-starting the weekend's news



Blair "sensation" — but the excitement was largely bogus

agenda by making mischief. Not content with landing its exclusive, it promoted the piece with a front-page story designed to attract publicity. It claimed that Mr Blair's "comments provoked fury among senior Tories". Yet it canvassed opinion from two of

them — the party chairman Brian Mawhinney and Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister — before they had a chance to read the article.

It would be interesting to know exactly how the reporters worded their questions. Did they quote Mr Blair verbatim? How many of his 1,500 words did they recite? Did they suggest, as the introduction to their story said, that Mr Blair argued that "Conservatism is incompatible with Christianity"? In other words, did journalists elicit their quotes based on a misrepresentation of what Mr Blair had said?

Whatever the case, Dr Mawhinney's criticism was muted and Ms Widdecombe's was oblique. Yet it was enough to have their names, and the so-called row undoubtedly helped *The Sunday Telegraph* to win airtime on television and radio news bulletins on Sunday. Then the dailies weighed in.

It was noticeable that the same Mawhinney and Widdecombe quotes were the basis of the new "row" stories. Three Tory backbenchers also joined

in, though all had a renege-quoite feel to them. The claims moved yet further from the truth: the Labour Party was "the natural home of Christian values", claimed the *Daily Mail*, while *The Daily Telegraph* alleged he had "made a connection between his faith and his party allegiance".

Then the leader writers and commentators, building on the foundation of inaccuracy, wrought their tablets of stone. Simon Heffer, in the *Mail*, called Mr Blair naive and asserted that his "grasp of theology is at an elementary level of philosophy".

*The Daily Express* thought Mr Blair "a little unctuous" but the paper showed commendable, and unusual, fairness by publishing adjacent to its leader the full text of his *Sunday Telegraph* article. *The Sun*, by contrast, virtually ignored the whole episode.

But the criticism did not come exclusively from the Right. *The Independent's* leader was probably the most venomous of all: "That he [Blair] has faith is well and good but he must not insult our intelligence with platitudes about gospel socialism and an exegesis which ignores the entire chequered history of the Christian Church."

Part of the reason for the outbreak of this preposterous pseudo-row was, ironically, the fact that it was Easter: there is often a desperation in newspapers about finding any story beyond routine Bank Holiday travel dramas. But Mr Blair is surely experienced enough by now to understand that everything he says, on any topic, is bound to attract press attention.

He might well have thought he was safe in making a deeply personal, sensitive statement which would be, in his eyes, politically neutral. Now he knows: for the British press, nothing, not even one's religious beliefs, is sacred.

### THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Why we exist



Richard Dawkins

RICHARD DAWKINS, the controversial biologist, will argue at a *Times/Dillons* forum that Darwin has the answers to all Nature's complexities.

The forum, on April 25, marks the publication of Professor Dawkins' book, *Climbing Mount Improbable* (Viking, £20). He will discuss the difference between accident and design in Nature and show how DNA has progressed through geological time.

Chaired by Sir John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature*, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Professor Dawkins' book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-915 6611, or by sending the coupon and your remittance to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

Please send me ..... ticket(s) at £10 each (concessions £7.50) for the Richard Dawkins Forum at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on Thursday, April 25

NAME ..... ADDRESS ..... POSTCODE ..... DAYTIME PHONE No ..... I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore Value £ ..... Number ..... (Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque) Or, please debit my Credit / Debit Dillons / Hachards account card number ..... Expiry date ..... / ..... Print name ..... Signature ..... Please post coupon and remittance to: The Times / Dillons Richard Dawkins Forum Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ Tel: 0171-915 6613 Fax: 0171-915 6611 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Ticket number ..... Date sent .....

## A real switch-off

TEN million viewers cannot be wrong, of course, but still the heart does not leap on learning that *Noel's House Party* is No 3 in the Top 20 of light entertainment, *Brigitte Callaghan* writes. This is a category which includes sitcoms as well as game shows and "family shows" (families, hang your heads in shame) and yet the only sitcom featured in the Top 20 can feature in the Top 20 which the honest viewer could say made them laugh a lot is *Absolutely Fabulous*. Saturday is the top night for "light": my advice, go out.

THE TIMES TOP 20: LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT									
March 15 to March 24, 1996									
Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Prod	Game	Audience (M)	All 4+		
1 The National Lottery Live	Sat 24	19.51	BBC1	BBC	Game Show	11.4			
2 You've Been Framed	Sun 24	19.22	ITV	Granada Television	Family Show	11.1			
3 Noel's House Party	Sat 23	19.01	BBC1	BBC	Family Show	10.9			
4 Spin in Their Eyes	Fri 22	20.05	ITV	Granada Television	Game Show	10.8			
5 Play Your Cards Right	Fri 22	19.59	ITV	Premiere (UK/LWT)	Game Show	10.2			
6 Talking Telephone Numbers	Mon 18	18.50	ITV	Celador Productions	Family Show	10.1			
7 Bertymore	Sat 23	19.08	ITV	LWT	Game Show	8.0			
8 Big Break	Fri 22	20.30	BBC1	BBC	Game Show	7.8			
9 A Question Of Sport	Wed 20	21.28	BBC1	BBC	Sit-com	7.5			
10 Absolutely Fabulous	Sun 24	20.08	BBC1	Alpha Productions	Comedy	7.1			
11 Birds Of A Feather	Wed 20	19.50	BBC1	BBC	Comedy	7.0			
12 Les Dawson: The Entertainer	Thu 21	20.20	BBC1	BBC	Family Show	6.8			
13 Annie's Sporting Bloomsday	Fri 22	20.30	ITV	Central Television	Game Show	6.7			
14 The Upper Hand	Wed 20	22.29	BBC1	Talkback Productions	Sit-com	6.5			
15 They Think It's All Over	Thu 19	20.31	ITV	Carlton UK	Game Show	6.5			
16 Married For Life	Mon 18	19.01	BBC1	Reg Grundy Productions	Family Show	6.5			
17 Eminent	Sat 23	18.15	ITV	Granada Television	Game Show	6.2			
18 The Shane Richie Experience	Wed 20	21.58	ITV	YorkWorld	Family Show	6.1			
19 Oddsells	Sat 23	17.44	ITV	Antenna Time	Game Show	5.9			
20 Catchphrase									

BARS (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board) David Graham & Associates 01822-322229 Copyright/no unauthorized reproduction. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (\*). Repeats/second transmissions not aggregated.



## NEWS

## Rates down again in mortgage war

The mortgage war among banks and building societies intensified when the Nationwide cut its variable rate for a million borrowers by a quarter of a point to 6.74 per cent.

The new rate, a belated response to last month's base rate cut, is the lowest to be declared by a major lender and is half a point below most of its rivals. Interest paid to savers will also be cut. The Nationwide last cut its mortgage rate by just under half a point in February. Page 1

## US helicopters poised for Liberia airlift

US helicopters were poised to begin the evacuation of hundreds of Americans and Britons who had sought refuge in the American Embassy while fighting continued in Monrovia, the Liberian capital. A State Department official said the helicopters would not return empty. Page 1

## Veterans claim

Second World War veterans who preferred to "bite the bullet" and accept their wartime sufferings rather than ask for a pension after demobilisation are coming forward in their thousands to claim their rights. Page 1

## Nurse's struggle

A British nurse battled aboard a jumbo jet to save a tennis player who had collapsed with a suspected brain infection. Page 1

## Clarke advised

Kenneth Clarke was urged by Conservative MPs to stand firm against demands for Britain to take part in a new exchange-rate mechanism. Page 2

## Regulator accused

A scathing report on the first year of the National Lottery accuses Peter Davis, the regulator, of failing to perform his basic duties to curb the gambling excesses of addicts and children. Page 3

## Investigation agreed

The Serious Fraud Office will launch an official investigation into the multi-million pound collapse of the Ostrich Farming Corporation. Page 5

## Advert ruling

A complaint on behalf of the Queen about a faked photograph of the Princess of Wales kissing Paul Gascoigne has been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority. Page 6

## Astronomers find elusive brown dwarf

The elusive brown dwarf has been found living on its own in the Milky Way. Too big to be a planet but too small to be a Sun, brown dwarfs are the stars that fail to glitter. But they could help to solve one of the mysteries of cosmology, if they proved abundant enough to account for the "missing mass" that astronomers are certain exists but cannot identify. Page 11

## Doctors' helpline

The British Medical Association has opened a 24-hour counselling service to help doctors to deal with stress and discourage them from turning to drugs or alcohol. Page 8

## Tory defeat likely

Senior Tories are backing away from Kenneth Clarke's confident forecast of a victory in the Staffordshire Southeast by-election, conceding that defeat is more likely. Page 9

## Ayckbourn's dream

Alan Ayckbourn vividly remembers the time 30 years ago when he sat at the bedside of his dying mentor Stephen Joseph, cutting up pieces of card to shape their dream theatre. Page 10

## Andreotti trial

The murder trial of Giulio Andreotti, the former Italian Prime Minister, begins in a fortified courtroom near Perugia. Page 12

## State visit protest

France was accused of putting money ahead of human rights as it rolled out the red carpet for Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister. Page 13

## Clinton criticised

Dee Dee Myers, the first woman White House press secretary, has criticised President Clinton for running a "white boys' club" where women struggle to be heard. Page 14



Snipers from the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, test four-wheel-drive buggies for increased mobility in Germany yesterday

## BUSINESS

**Economy:** British manufacturing output and industrial production show no underlying growth for the first time since September 1992. Page 25

**Wise men:** The Chancellor was warned by a majority of his independent forecasting panel to be cautious about a tax-cutting budget in November. Page 25

**Dogfight:** British Aerospace and Lockheed Martin are set to lobby the Government for the £2 billion prize to replace the Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft. Page 25

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 index rose 3 points to close at 5758.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.6 to 83.9 after a fall from \$1.5280 to \$1.5247 and a rise from DM2.2622 to DM2.2761. Page 28

## SPORT

**Rugby union:** The Rugby Football Union lunged down the gauntlet to its senior clubs, asserting its right as the governing body to control the game in England. Page 48

**Golf:** The Americans, Ben Crenshaw, who seems to have a golden putter, and Tom Lehman an iron will, are put under the microscope in the build-up to the Masters in Augusta. Page 46

**Yachting:** A Swedish skipper brought his exciting round-the-world yacht to show off on the Hamble — the problem is that the race it was due to compete in looks doomed. Page 48

**Racing:** Richard Evans, racing correspondent, suggests ten horses it could pay to follow as the Flat season unfolds. Page 45

## ARTS

**Musical tributes:** The South Bank Centre is preparing to celebrate the work of Harrison Birtwistle. A three-week season, which opens on Friday, looks at the achievements of the great avant-garde composer. Page 35

**Base man:** The legendary bass player Ray Brown is in Britain for a rare gig, one night at the Cheltenham Festival. Page 36

**Dramatist of the moment:** From famine to feast, it suddenly seems to be happening for Martin Sherman, whose new play, *Some Sunny Day*, will be opening in London this week. Page 37

**Gladstone revealed:** David Hart's new play, *Victoriana*, looks at William Gladstone's involvement with ladies of the street. Page 37

## TOMORROW

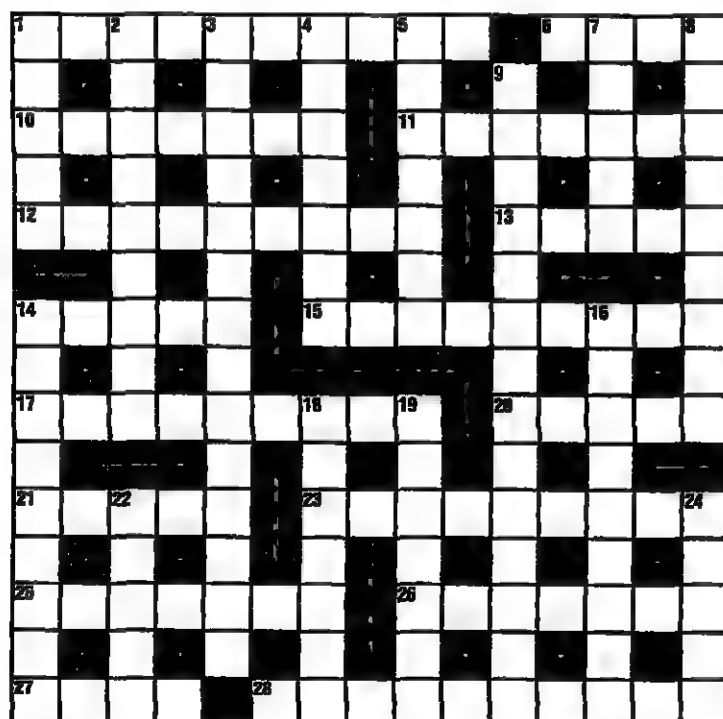
## IN THE TIMES

**FILMS**  
John Travolta, left, and Christian Slater in the explosive thriller *Broken Arrow*, plus other new releases

**BOOKS**  
Aisling Foster on Roddy Doyle, Alexander Chancellor on Florence



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,138



- ACROSS**
- 1 Gunner initially opposed to boarding salt water vessel (10).
  - 6 Song of joy (4).
  - 10 Concur with detention of scholar one caught wandering (7).
  - 11 Two chiefs in dominating position on board (7).
  - 12 Run down in trade, e.g. after crash (9).
  - 13 Clothing material for excessively dainty little daughter (5).
  - 14 Drink is taken in passage (5).
  - 15 With simoleon can one put out sound agreement? (9).
  - 17 Special card with atlas showing details of land (9).
  - 20 Attack where shooting takes place (5).
  - 21 Person found in possession is one making confession (5).
  - 23 One's honour bound to accept and carry on (9).
  - 25 Authorise army unit to return with prisoner held inside (7).

**Solution to Puzzle No 20,137**

PARANACHE CITADEL  
S E T R A L I U B A  
R O U G E S N O D G R A S S  
J H A T I V E S  
U N I A M A B L E R A T I O  
R M O L E  
Y E A R S U N A N I M O U S  
R I N B L A  
O P E N O R D E R Y O R K S  
S  
T O P I C S U N E L O W E R  
O A O W G O O  
B A R G A R O L E C A M E O  
E K C R R A A S  
R E A C H E D S I L E N C E

- DOWN**
- 1 Good French journalist, if spineless, perhaps (5).
  - 2 One small measure used in organisation provided protection (9).
  - 3 Drag stage out, harassed in hostile state (2,7,5).
  - 4 Musical piece's so long, including old note repeated (7).
  - 5 Causes of sensational withdrawal for book? (7).
  - 7 Revolutionary machine producing endless agitation (5).
  - 8 It's advantageous to use old exercise books to secure pass (9).
  - 9 Realist's not one about to be persuaded (6,2,6).
  - 14 Solitary stabiliser on eastern vessel (9).
  - 16 Again lost, drifting into old memories (5).
  - 18 Rhy about Oxford puzzle solver (7).
  - 19 Sin requires abstinence — logic, initially, of purification ceremony (7).
  - 22 From this country, North-East you'll find China (5).
  - 24 Moderate Liberal support for artistic work (5).

**Times Two Crossword, page 48**

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 35 per cent of the solo competitors in the Edinburgh Regional Final of The Times Aberdeen Crossword Championship and by 46 per cent of the pairs.

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Great London	701
East Surrey/Sussex	702
West Surrey/Sussex	703
West Kent	704
West Essex	705
West Essex & Essex	706
West Essex & Essex	707
West Essex & Essex	708
West Essex & Essex	709
West Essex & Essex	710
West Essex & Essex	711
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West Essex & Essex	730

## A ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
East Kent/Essex/Sussex	732
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	733
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	734
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	735
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	736
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	737
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	738
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	739
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	740
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	741
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	742
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	743
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	744
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	745
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	746
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	747
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	748
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	749
West Kent/Essex/Sussex	750

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Location	Sun sets	Moon sets
London	8:15 pm	1:57 am
Bristol	8:16 pm	1:58 am
Manchester	8:17 pm	1:59 am
Cardiff	8:18 pm	2:00 am
Belfast	8:19 pm	2:01 am

## FLIGHT SAVERS

**LONDON TO ROTTERDAM**  
from £69 return.

**LONDON TO MILAN**  
from £99 return.

**LONDON TO COPENHAGEN**  
from £99 return.

Phone Air UK on 0345 086777 or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability, airport tax and differing travel periods. Restrictions apply. See Telcel P.354.

## FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be cloudy. Eastern England should be dry at first, but rain already over Wales and western England will extend east, reaching East Angles during the afternoon. Brighter weather will follow across Wales and the southwest, perhaps with the odd shower.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will see a band of rain move slowly east across all parts, becoming slow-moving later over northern and eastern Scotland. Brighter weather with showers should edge into Northern Ireland by midday.

London, SE, Cent S, NW, Cent N England, Midlands, N Wales, Lakes, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Cloudy, rain spreading from west. Becoming drier later, but staying cloudy. Wind southeasterly.

## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	10	10	10
London	15	15	15
Manchester	12	12	12
Cardiff	11	11	11
Belfast	10	10	10
Edinburgh	11	11	11
Glasgow	11	11	11
Sheffield	12	12	12
Nottingham	13	13	13
Leeds	14	14	14
Birmingham	15	15	15
Bristol	16	16	16
Exeter	17	17	17
London	18	18	18
Cardiff	19	19	19
Belfast	20	20	20
Edinburgh	21	21	21
Glasgow	22	22	22
Sheffield	23	23	23
Nottingham	24	24	24
Leeds	25	25	25
Birmingham	26	26	26
Bristol	27	27	27
Exeter	28	28	28
London	29	29	29
Cardiff	30	30	30
Belfast	31	31	31
Edinburgh	32	32	32
Glasgow	33	33	33
Sheffield	34	34	34
Nottingham	35	35	35
Leeds	36	36	36
Birmingham	37	37	37
Bristol	38	38	38
Exeter	39	39	39
London	40	40	40
Cardiff	41	41	41
Belfast	42	42	42
Edinburgh	43	43	43
Glasgow	44	44	44
Sheffield	45	45	45
Nottingham	46	46	46
Leeds	47	47	47
Birmingham	48	48	48
Bristol	49	49	49
Exeter	50	50	50
London	51	51	51
Cardiff	52	52	52
Belfast	53	53	53
Edinburgh	54	54	54
Glasgow	55	55	55
Sheffield	56	56	56
Nottingham	57	57	57
Leeds	58	58	58
Birmingham	59	59	59
Bristol	60	60	60
Exeter	61	61	61
London	62	62	62
Cardiff	63	63	63
Belfast	64	64	64
Edinburgh	65	65	65
Glasgow	66	66	66
Sheffield	67	67	67
Nottingham	68	68	68
Leeds	69	69	69
Birmingham	70	70	70
Bristol	71	71	71
Exeter	72	72	72
London	73	73	73
Cardiff	74	74	74
Belfast	75	75	75
Edinburgh	76	76	76
Glasgow	77	77	77
Sheffield	78	78	78
Nottingham	79	79	79
Leeds	80	80	80
Birmingham	81	81	81
Bristol	82	82	82
Exeter	83	83	83
London	84	84	84
Cardiff	85	85	85
Belfast	86	86	86
Edinburgh	87	87	87
Glasgow	88	88	88
Sheffield	89	89	89
Nottingham	90	90	90
Leeds	91	91	91
Birmingham	92	92	92
Bristol	93	93	93
Exeter	94	94	94
London	95	95	95
Cardiff	96	96	96
Belfast	97	97	97
Edinburgh	98	98	98
Glasgow	99	99	99
Sheffield	100	100	100

## AHEAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	10	10	10
London	15	15	15
Manchester	12	12	12
Cardiff	11	11	11
Belfast	10	10	10
Edinburgh	11	11	11
Glasgow	11	11	11
Sheffield	12	12	12
Nottingham	13	13	13
Leeds	14	14	14
Birmingham	15	15	15
Bristol	16	16	16
Exeter	17	17	17
London	18	18	18
Cardiff	19	19	19
Belfast	20	20	20
Edinburgh	21	21	21
Glasgow	22	22	22
Sheffield	23	23	23
Nottingham	24	24	24
Leeds	25	25	25
Birmingham	26	26	26
Bristol	27	27	27
Exeter	28	28	28
London	29	29	29
Cardiff	30	30	30
Belfast	31	31	31
Edinburgh	32	32	32
Glasgow	33	33	33
Sheffield	34	34	34
Nottingham	35	35	35
Leeds	36	36	36
Birmingham	37	37	37
Bristol	38	38	38
Exeter	39	39	39
London	40	40	40
Cardiff	41	41	41
Belfast	42	42	42
Edinburgh	43	43	43
Glasgow	44	44	44
Sheffield	45	45	45
Nottingham	46	46	46
Leeds	47	47	47





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away from home



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a security trap?



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Magic Johnson

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10 1996

## Dogfight over £2bn RAF deal to replace Nimrods



Bae proposes to rebuild the ageing Nimrod

**BY ROSS TIEMAN**  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE gloves are about to come off in the £2 billion battle to provide a replacement maritime patrol aircraft for the Royal Air Force.

Despite enjoiners from the Ministry of Defence to keep the contest out of the political limelight, the contenders, British Aerospace, teamed with Boeing, and Lockheed Martin of the United States, teamed with GEC-Marconi, are poised to launch an intensive public lobbying campaign.

At stake are the last big Royal Air Force programme this century, and tens of thousands of jobs in British industry. The battle also rekindles the rivalry between Bae and GEC.

through a contest that will pit Bae's desire to extend its role as a prime contractor to the MoD against GEC's determination to stay at the forefront of defence electronics.

The RAF and other airforces worldwide are keen to acquire a new generation of more capable, patrol aircraft to track increasingly sophisticated Russian submarines, and the super-quiet conventional subs sold to many second-rank navies since the end of the Cold War. The aircraft would replace the RAF's 25 ageing Nimrod jets. Lockheed Martin, the world's biggest defence company, is wooing the MoD as launch customer for its Orion 2000 aircraft. The four-

engined turboprop will be a re-engineered version of its venerable P3 Orion, with state-of-the-art, fly-by-wire controls and new, more powerful engines.

In an unprecedented move, the company is promising an aircraft with more than 50 per cent United Kingdom content, including a GEC-Marconi mission system accounting for up to 40 per cent of the order, by value.

At least 20 per cent of all follow-on sales from the company's Marietta, Georgia, base, will be sourced from the UK. Lockheed faces a tough counter-attack from British Aerospace, which is offering to rebuild the Nimrods with a new engine pod, engines, inner-wing and electronics.

Bae says the Nimrod's jet engines offer significant advantages.

According to Graham Chisnall, project director of Bae's Replacement Maritime Patrol Aircraft Programme, systems integration and design work on the Nimrod replacement is equally vital to enable Bae to take technology design teams through the looming gap between completion of work on the Eurofighter, and the nascent Anglo-American Joint Advanced Strike Technology programme.

Although offering an American-built Boeing mission system at the heart of its bid, Bae says the lessons learned modernising Nimrod would put it in pole position to upgrade P3 Orions in use around the world.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3758.5	(+3.0)
Yield	3.94%	
FT-SE All share	1869.86	(+0.33)
Nikkei	21744.17	(+319.53)
New York		
Dow Jones	8578.47	(-15.90)
S&P Composite	644.05	(-0.19)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 1/4%	(91 1/2%)
Yield	5.7%	(86.60%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6%	(8%)
Life long gilt	100%	(105%)
Future (Jan)		
STERLING		
New York	1.3246	(1.3308)
London		
DM	1.6247	(1.6301)
DM	2.2748	(2.2837)
FF	7.7430	(7.7083)
SFR	1.2503	(1.1824)
Yen	164.93	(163.68)
C index	83.9	(83.8)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.6247	(1.6301)
FF	5.0755	(5.0380)
SFR	1.2503	(1.1824)
Yen	106.18	(107.03)
S index	96.4	(95.8)
Tokyo close Yen 107.70		
MONTHLY DATA		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	918.80	(918.50)
Brent 15-day (Jan)		
Brent 15-day (Jan)		
London close	6386.18	(6383.75)
* denotes midday trading price		

## Flat factory output points to recession

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S manufacturing output is stagnant, recording the same activity in February as it did eight months ago and languishing just below the levels reached before the last recession hit.

Manufacturing showed no growth in February and, taking the three months to February against the previous three, was 0.5 per cent lower. Against the same period last year, the sector was showing only 0.5 per cent growth, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Unless there has been a sharp rebound in activity in March — not expected given the most recent survey evidence — it is likely that manufacturing industry will show a contraction in the first quarter. With activity having shrunk in the final quarter of

last year as well, this means that manufacturing was technically back in recession at the start of this year.

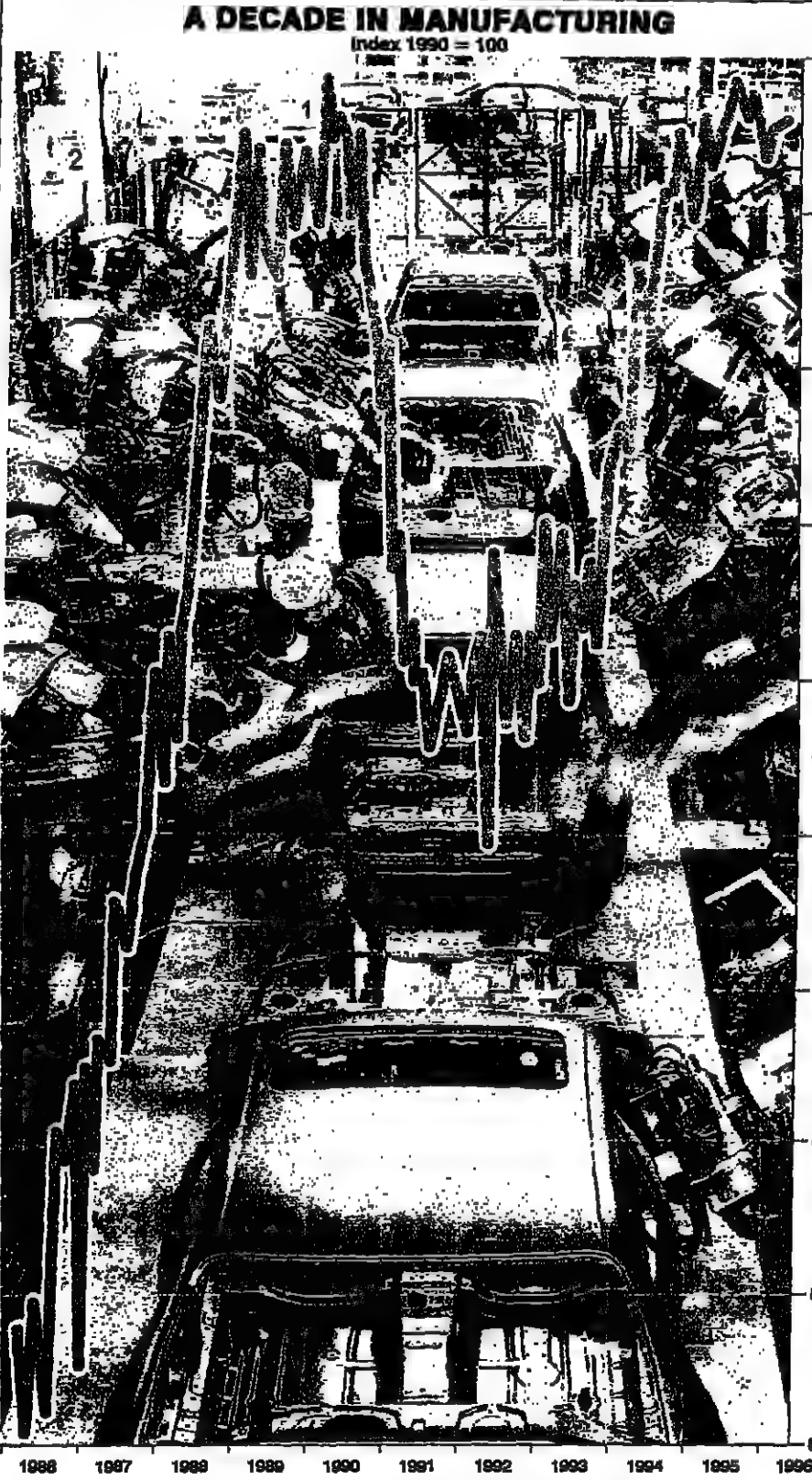
The ONS estimated yesterday that the underlying trend of both manufacturing and industrial production, which includes Britain's energy sector, is now for zero growth. This is the first time this has happened since September, 1992, the month when sterling was forced to leave the exchange-rate mechanism.

Industrial production grew by 0.4 per cent in February, boosted by unusually cold weather during the month, to the latest three months against the previous three, industrial production was up just 0.1 per cent but was up 1.5 per cent on a year ago.

The City is deeply divided on where manufacturing industry will go from here and what the effect of the current malaise in this sector will mean for the rest of the economy.

Industry is currently dominated by last year's involuntary build-up in stocks as firms failed to anticipate the slowdown in growth. It is still an open question how quickly stock levels can be reduced and production return to more normal levels.

David Walton, of Goldman Sachs, noted that yesterday's figures showed a pick-up in the output of consumer goods, at an annualised rate of 2.3 per cent in the three months to February, in response to buoyancy in consumer demand. He



### Panel warns against tax cuts

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor was yesterday warned by a clear majority of his independent forecasting panel against a tax cutting Budget in November.

Of the "six wise persons" who report on the economy twice a year, three were opposed to any tax cuts in November and argued, if anything, that the Chancellor should tighten fiscal policy.

Professor Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research, Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs and Martin Weale of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research said that they were worried about a continuing shortfall in tax receipts and were sceptical that the Government would be able to deliver very tight control over public spending for a sustained period.

But Bridget Rosewell of Business Strategies and Kate Barker of the Confederation of British Industry were not concerned if there were small tax cuts although Ms Barker said she would like them balanced by lower spending.

Only Professor Patrick Minford of the University of Liverpool argued for tax cuts of more than £2 to £3 billion.

Professor Minford also stood out against the crowd in calling for a further 2 per cent off base rates to prevent the current weakness of demand turning into a prolonged period of very weak activity.

However, the wise persons' report said that "most of us do not believe that the next move in interest rates should necessarily be downwards and think that any significant further reduction in interest rates should depend on evidence that inflation over the next two years will be lower than currently expected."

### F&C adds to detail on director incomes

By PAUL DURMAN

FOREIGN & Colonial Investment Trust has bowed to pressure from its 100,000 shareholders to give a more explicit account of the amounts paid to its senior investment managers.

The fuller disclosure of salary and option benefits covers nearly five pages of the trust's report and accounts.

At first sight, the latest accounts seem to show that Michael Hart, the trust's manager, and the James Ogilvy, chief executive of Foreign & Colonial Management (FCM), took big pay cuts last year.

Mr Hart's pay from FCM fell from £414,000 in 1994 to £249,000 last year. Mr Ogilvy's rewards fell from £586,000 to £501,000, but the 1995 figure also includes £386,000 from a "phantom" share option scheme set up in 1989. Without this, Mr Ogilvy would have been paid £515,000.

However, Mr Ogilvy also exercised more than 10,000 options in FCM, bringing immediate profit of £375,000. Including this, the total he received from the investment group last year was £1.2 million.

Mr Hart and other directors also raised substantial sums by exercising options in FCM. Mr Hart cashed in enough to produce a profit of £288,000.

Problems of obscenity on executive pay arise because executive directors are paid not by the trust, but by FCM, itself an indirect investment of the trust. Since most executives spend only part of their time on trust affairs, F&C reported only a proportion of the total amounts paid to them.

Mr Hart said the directors' reduced earnings in 1995 were due to lower bonuses.

### Shares end with show of strength

By PHILIP FANGLOS

THE much-feared slide in London share prices failed to materialise after Monday's 88-point tumble on Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index opened with a deficit of 29.4 points after an initial markdown, but the market soon recovered as dealers began selective buying. Conditions were mixed, but dealers' nerves were further calmed by slightly weaker-than-forecast industrial production data and a positive start on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average moved to a 21-point gain within five minutes.

The FT-SE 100 index ended up 3.0 points at 3,758.6, in this volume of 619 million shares traded. However, conditions in New York remained volatile with the Dow nursing a 32-point deficit shortly after the London market had closed.

Restrictions, page 26  
Stock market, page 28

## UBS and Crédit Suisse in merger talks

By PATRICIA TEHAN  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SWITZERLAND'S two biggest banks, Union Bank of Switzerland and CS Holding, parent of Crédit Suisse, have confirmed that they are in merger talks in a move that could lead to thousands of job cuts in their domestic markets and in London.

A merger of UBS, the biggest bank in Switzerland, and Crédit Suisse, the second biggest, would create a European banking and investment banking giant. The combined group would represent more than \$175 billion (£163 billion) in annual net

profit and would have total assets of around \$680 billion (£435 billion).

Both banks have massive investment banking operations in London, employing several thousand staff. There would be widespread implications for jobs at the UBS office in Broadgate and Crédit Suisse's operations in Canary Wharf.

CS Holding confirmed that a telephone conversation had taken place between Rainer Gut, its chairman, and Nikolaus Senn, chairman of UBS, last week and that they "explored the issue of whether it might be appropriate to discuss a merger".

The bank denied press reports in

Switzerland that it was planning to support Martin Ebner, the UBS shareholder who is planning to oppose the nomination of UBS executive Robert Studer to succeed Mr Senn as chairman at the bank's stockholders' meeting next Tuesday.

CS Holding also denied that it wanted to take control of UBS.

After initially refusing to comment on the CS Holding statement, UBS last night confirmed that the call had taken place and said its board will meet tomorrow evening to discuss the merger proposals from CS Holding.

The CS Holding statement said

that during the telephone call Mr Gut "explored the issue of whether it might be appropriate to discuss a merger between Switzerland's two biggest banks, saying that current trends in the Swiss and international banking industry meant that the question was bound to be raised sooner or later".

Mr Gut also told Mr Senn that "the challenges thrown up by the globalisation of financial services and the continuing restructuring process within Switzerland's banking industry demanded far-sighted solutions".

Analysts said last night that a

decision to go ahead with such a merger would be made primarily on domestic grounds, but would have massive implications for international investment banking operations, particularly on the debt side of the business.

A merger would raise monopoly issues in Switzerland and would lead to widespread political opposition as the banking industry employs around a third of the Swiss population and a merger would lead to mass layoffs.

CS Holding shares gained almost 5.75 per cent yesterday, but UBS was up a mere 0.3 per cent on the day.

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# Retail sales growth 'slowed in March'

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH consumers appear more confident and willing to spend more freely but the pace of growth of retail sales slowed in March, according to the distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry, out today.

This is the sixth successive month in which the number of retailers reporting an increase in business, rather than a fall, compared favourably with the situation a year before.

But March saw the difference between those enjoying an upturn and those suffering a downturn narrow to 27 per cent from 30 per cent in February.

Expectations for sales this month have also fallen back. In February, the proportion of those expecting further strong growth in sales over the next month, minus those expecting a decline, had been 45 per cent. That figure in today's survey

has dropped to 42 per cent. The March survey also shows that retail sales are regarded as only just above average for the time of year.

Sudhir Junankar, the CBI's associate director of economic analysis, said: "Retailers had expected a faster pace of growth in March and the survey indicates that the underlying three monthly growth trend seems to be pausing even though retailers still consider sales to be marginally above average for the time of year." He said that retailers were still confident that sales would pick up in April but that this would depend on a stronger Easter than last year.

Kate Barker, chief economist at the CBI, said in her submission to the report of the Chancellor's independent panel of forecasters yesterday that consumer spending was the great unknown of current forecasts of the domestic economy. She is predicting an increase in consumer spending this year of some 2.8 per cent, compared with the Treasury's forecast of 3.5 per cent.

The CBI report today says that all sectors of the high street saw more buoyant trading in March than they did last year, apart from specialist food and footwear and leather shops. Retailers with the closest links to the housing market did well. Hardware, china and DIY shops reported the biggest jumps in business. This appears to back up other anecdotal evidence and recent mortgage lending figures which suggest that the housing market is beginning to show genuine signs of recovery.

In the motor trade, the CBI reported that there was only a modest rise in sales in March and that sales are still considered to be below average. Motor dealers are hoping for a slight pick up in April.



Barker: spending forecast

## Stocks of US unsold goods fall

By OUR CITY STAFF

STOCKS of unsold goods on wholesalers' shelves in America fell in February for the first time in nearly two years, the Commerce Department reported yesterday, signalling progress in whittling down overstocked inventories.

Total inventories fell 0.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$255.8 billion, after a revised increase of 0.6 per cent in January. It was the first monthly decline in wholesale inventories since a 0.5 per cent fall in March 1994, department officials said.

The decline in February inventories was evident in reduced stocks of durable goods, including metals and minerals, electrical products and professional and commercial goods. Inventories of non-durable goods, such as oil and farm-product raw materials also fell, the department said.

Big stockpiles of unsold goods that forced manufacturers to hold back production were cited as a drag on economic growth through much of last year. The report said the "inventory correction" may finally be coming to an end.

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.04	1.88
Austria Sch	16.86	16.46
Belgium Fr	49.58	48.26
Canada \$	5.184	5.024
Cyprus Cyp	0.751	0.686
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland Mkk	7.87	7.62
France Fr	6.54	7.49
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	388.00	393.00
Hong Kong \$	12.47	11.47
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel S	3.100	4.300
Italy Lit	2502.00	2348.00
Japan Yen	179.50	163.50
Malta Lm	0.555	0.538
Netherlands Gld	2.687	2.457
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.17
Norway Kr	10.42	9.52
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	18.82	18.02
Spain Ptas	162.50	163.50
Sweden Kr	10.65	10.05
Switzerland Fr	1.08	1.28
Turkey Lira	114.04	109.04
USA \$	1.827	1.497

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.



David Witt with Tim Dewhurst, chairman, centre, and Scott Beattie, finance director

## British Coal's doctor wins RJB health work

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BRITISH COAL's former director of occupational health has won a five-year private contract to provide health screening for RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal producer.

Dr Siyami Afacan is chief executive and medical director of Business Healthcare Limited (BHL), which was the only operator to be invited by RJB Mining to bid for the contract. Neither Bupa, the largest healthcare provider in Britain, nor Norwich Union, were involved in the negotiations.

RJB bought the bulk of the collieries and opencast sites formerly owned by British Coal for £815 million in April last year.

RJB declined yesterday to disclose the value of the contract. The new healthcare company, which is based in

Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, is also headed by Bob Ellis and Derek Smallwood, formerly the managing director and the finance director of Coal Products Ltd, the British Coal smokeless fuels subsidiary that was sold to its own management buyout team.

The company will provide health screening and monitoring for all 9,500 RJB employees, and will undertake medical examinations of new entrants, advice on first-aid training, X-rays of employees at four-yearly intervals and a range of other health services.

BHL, which is operating from a new headquarters in Mansfield, was not available for comment yesterday. The company was established while the privatisation of British Coal was being finalised and already serves privatised collieries, manufacturers,

local authorities and government departments.

It has mobile X-ray units and health screening units, permitting it to provide a workplace service throughout the United Kingdom, and a team of doctors, nurses and radiographers.

A spokesman for RJB confirmed that the service had not been put out to tender.

He said: "Between the privatisation of British Coal last January and today's announcement, BHL has been running a transitional service and we are happy that we have been able to provide some continuity."

"This is one of a number of former British Coal services now run by private companies — the others include public relations and mines rescue. RJB has been very happy with the transitional service."

## Profits and investment jump at Dewhurst

By SARAH BAGNALL

DEWHURST, a supplier of clothing and toiletries to Marks & Spencer, plans to step up its investment by a massive 80 per cent to about £15 million in the current year.

The news came as the company revealed a sharp leap in pre-tax profits from £17 million to £22.3 million in the year to January 12. Sales of £278.9 million were up from £247.3 million last time.

The planned capital expenditure programme, which represents 67 per cent of last year's pre-tax profits, is being funded out of the group's cash resources.

Net cash stood at £22.3 million at the year end, up £4.2 million from last time.

David Witt, chief executive, said the bulk of the current year's capital expenditure is to fund the group's investment in offshore manufacturing. Dewhurst is building factories in areas such as Morocco and the Far East in order to have greater control over supply and so it can respond swiftly to shifts in demand and at a lower unit cost. The company, which supplies all its clothing and 85 per cent of its overall sales to M&S, lifted the final dividend from 2p to 2.6p, making a total for the year of 3.6p, compared to 2.65p last time.

The dividend, due for payment on July 1, is being paid out of earnings of 11.61p a share, up from 8.91p last time. The shares fell 3p to close at 186p.

Tempos, page 28

## IBM set for licence pact with Apple

By OUR CITY STAFF

IBM is close to signing a pact with Apple Computers to license the Macintosh operating system.

The agreement is likely to be signed in the next few days with the IBM unit that develops the PowerPC chip and would be similar to a pact that Apple signed in February with Motorola's computer systems unit, it is understood.

The pact would be another move in Apple's aggressive push to license its Macintosh operating system, one of the key goals set by Gil Amelio, Apple's new chief executive, when he took over the troubled computer maker in early February.

IBM will not build Macintosh clones but will have the right to sub-license the Mac system to other makers seeking to develop Mac clones based on the PowerPC chip.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Chargeurs out of MGM bidding

CHARGEURS, the French media and industrial group, is dropping out of the running to buy Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. the Hollywood film studio that the French Government has put on the auction block. The French state became the improbable owner of MGM through the ill-fated expansion spree of Credit Lyonnais, the state-owned bank. Sources close to the sale have said there is no official asking price for MGM, famed for its roaring lion logo.

The Government is reported to be hoping to get between \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion, and possibly more, to recoup some of the \$2.5 billion which Credit Lyonnais sunk into the studio. The bank acquired MGM in 1992 when Giancarlo Parretti, the Italian financier and its then owner, defaulted on loans. Chargeurs' decision came after it examined the MGM sale prospectus. It leaves PolyGram, the music and film company, as the only potential European suitor.

### BT prices debate

BT and Ofel, the telecommunications regulator, are to debate the price controls that will determine the future profitability of BT's domestic operations at a public hearing at London University's Senate House on April 17. Ofel has proposed that BT reduces its prices by between 5 and 9 per cent, less allowance for retail price inflation, between mid-1997, when the current cap expires, and 2001. The exact level of the new price cap will depend on factors such as BT's cost of capital and the expected growth in the telecoms market.

### Halcyon receivership

HALCYON RETAIL, a specialist retailer of Benetton goods, has gone into receivership. Halcyon employs 100 staff and traded under the banner "United Colours of Benetton" out of eight outlets in London and the South East. Scott Barnes, head of corporate recovery at Grant Thornton and joint receiver to Halcyon, said: "We intend to continue to trade whilst a potential purchaser is sought." Halcyon lost £400,000 in the year to August 27 and has continued to lose money. Full-year turnover was forecast at £3.7 million.

### Nissan names president

NISSAN, Japan's second largest carmaker, named a new president yesterday who said he wanted a leaner, meaner company able to cope better with difficult business conditions. Yoshiyuki Hanawa is currently executive vice president. The current president, Yoshifumi Tsuji, who becomes chairman, said Mr Hanawa, 62, was named new president to bring younger blood and vigour to the top management. Nissan suffered losses in each of the past three years but is expected to make a profit in the year to March 31, 1996.

### Panther bid deadline

PANTHER SECURITIES, the quoted property company, has until the weekend to raise its £6.8 million partial takeover offer for Elys, the Wimbledon-based department store. Panther has launched an unusual two-tier cash offer for Elys, comprising 750p for a third of the shares and 485p for the balance. It has, however, been blocked from acquiring all of Elys' equity as three of the department store's trustees, representing 39.17 per cent of the equity, have rejected the offer. Elys shares stand at 600p. Panther's at 63p.

### Low & Bonar outbid

LOW & BONAR, the UK packaging and plastics company, has been outbid in its attempt to acquire Rotronics Manufacturing, a US plastics business. In February L&B announced it had reached agreement in principle to buy all the outstanding shares in Rotronics for \$2.34 per share in cash, valuing the business at \$33 million. The deal was subject to contract, completion of due diligence and regulatory approvals. A decision had been expected by the end of March. L&B shares fell 1p to 56p.

### Haslehurst at Reliance

GEOFF HASLEHURST, the finance director of Laura Ashley who left abruptly following the arrival of Ann Iverson as chief executive last summer, has resurfaced as finance director of Reliance Security, Mr Haslehurst, who started his new job yesterday, replaced John Toop, who left Reliance earlier this year. Brian Kingham, chairman of Reliance, said he was pleased to have someone of Mr Haslehurst's ability joining the board. Mr Haslehurst has previously worked with Thorn UK Rental and Next.

### Japan stance welcomed

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, said he welcomes the expiry of the Japan/US semiconductor agreement at the end of July and hopes it is not renewed, a situation he said would bring greater benefit to British companies. Mr Lang, who is in Tokyo accompanying British businesses on a trade mission, was meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Shunpei Tsukahara. Japan opposes an extension of the five-year bilateral accord which provides for a minimum foreign share of 20 per cent of the local market.

### Satellite link for Wales

CARDIFF BAY has been chosen as the site for a £50 million satellite earth station, which should attract new multimedia companies to Wales and could create up to 3,500 jobs over the next five years. The station announced yesterday, which will link companies in Wales with the Orion F1 satellite, is being developed by an international consortium of companies, including the Orion network of the US, Cable-Tel, Christiani and Nielsen, TCI and Hyder. They plan to establish a 30-acre multimedia business park alongside the station.

## Wall Street seeks to ease restrictions

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

THE New York Stock Exchange wants to ease restrictions on broad price swings for the first time since the curbs were imposed after the October 1987 stock market crash.

The so-called "circuit breakers" were designed by the NYSE and federal Securities and Exchange Commission to slow the market's plunge in the event of another sharp sell-off. But concern that the rules are out of date has grown amid a more than doubling in the value of the Dow Jones industrial average since 1988, when the rules took effect.

In London the Stock Exchange has resisted calls for the introduction of similar restrictions when trading is volatile. But a number of European bourses favour constraints to restore calm. In New York a 50-point change

— now amounting to less than 1 per cent and triggered by Monday morning's drop — is now fairly routine, but still triggers curbs on computer-generated trading.

But the proposed changes would only affect a 250-point Dow shift or a 400-point move. The stock exchange narrowly averted closing early last month when the Dow approached the 250-point threshold in its final hour.

The changes would halve the delays in trading triggered by big movements in the Dow, a key indicator of market activity.

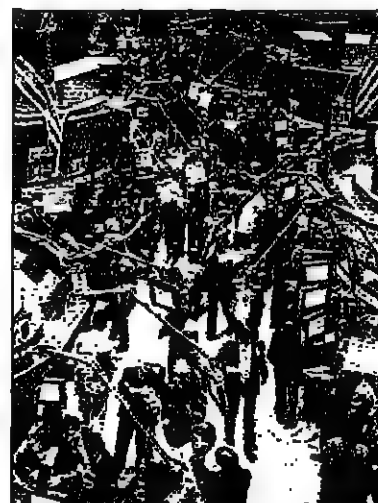
Under the proposals, a 250-point change in the Dow from the previous day's close would spur a halt in trading for 30 minutes. The trading delay for a 400-point Dow change would be cut to one hour from two.

There would be no changes to limits in computer-generated trading that kick in after the Dow industrials move 50 points in either direction from the previous day's close.

The NYSE board approved the proposals last Thursday and plans to submit them for approval to the SEC within the next few days, an NYSE spokesman said.

Market experts have argued that the circuit breakers are increasingly irrelevant. For example, a 250-point plunge would have been a remarkable 12 per cent decline in October 1988 when the rule was first tested on the NYSE.

Today, because the market has more than doubled in value since 1988, the Dow only has to fall about 4.5 per cent before it would trigger such a trading halt.



NYSE dealers may see end to curbs



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Disarray among forecasters suits the Chancellor Lenders limber up for their next débâcle SFO seeks dignity

## 'Tis folly to be wise

IGNORANCE is bliss for Kenneth Clarke when wise folk are split as deeply as Tim Congdon with Patrick Minford and as widely as virtually all six are on one issue or another. He can blithely ignore them, lay them end to end or ask them to change a lightbulb and stand back for a few laughs.

If the six agreed, by contrast, their message would not be a comfortable one. The Chancellor would be confronted with one of two uncomfortable propositions. Either the received wisdom would be that growth is picking up but will be inflationary next year and needs to be curbed, or that he is negligently incompetent and needs to jolt into life fast to stop the economy sliding into recession.

Even in their foolish disarray, the independent economists do agree on one thing. The Chancellor's stoic refusal to budge on his Budget prediction of 3 per cent growth this year belies the odds. It is an exercise in bombast rather than forecasting. Their own projections range from 1.8 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

This is more than a guessing game. Unemployment, public spending, tax revenue and the Budget deficit are all sensitive to such differences. Hence all six expect the public sector to need to

borrow more for 1995-96, this year and for 1997-98 than the Treasury projected in December.

Near-term, the differences are not critical. For 1997-98, however, the average forecast is £21 billion against the Treasury's £15 billion. Yet the forecasters, averaged out, assume that growth will accelerate to 3.3 per cent in 1997. To protect state finances and, equally, to stop inflationary growth, that suggests Mr Clarke would encounter the look-silly factor if he were cavalier with Budget handouts in his planned run-up to the election.

For the moment, the hard evidence is with Mr Minford, who wants more interest rate cuts and reckons that, under these circumstances, flirting with any form of fixed currency condemns Mr Clarke's stewardship. Unless next month's batch of statistics shows a hitherto unnoticed surge in manufacturing in March, industry is now experiencing what apologists might term a minus recovery. Optimists cite consumer windfalls from electricity and build-

ing society conversions as a ready self-starter but the equally problematical "mad-cow" effect, too late for these forecasts, could offset that.

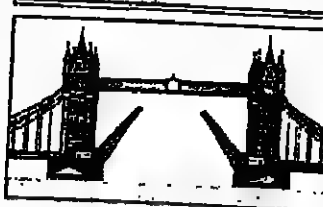
The markets are, however, with Mr Congdon. So is Eddie George, who will surely stop licking his forecasting wounds and come growing from his lair again if anything too nice happens to growth, jobs or take-home pay. The prospect of 3.3 per cent growth next year would surely give him palpitations.

The likely outcome is that growth will disappoint but Mr Clarke will not dare do much about it.

### Competition cuts margin for error

BANKING is one of the few industries where competition tends to push up the price. To have more money to lend, you need to attract more first. But a buyers' market in housing and the battle between banks and mutuals has changed all that.

### PENNINGTON



Most banks and building societies now have more money than they reckon they can lend prudently.

The new banking companies such as Abbey National, Halifax and Lloyds' Cheltenham & Gloucester will therefore have to think carefully before they respond to the Nationwide and Yorkshire. These building societies are seeking to reassert the historic role of mutual organisations that had no dividends to pay and could therefore lend more cheaply and pay depositors better than the high street banks. The new banks reckon their more accepted new financial status and deeper pockets will

allow them to borrow more cheaply and buy the systems to operate services more efficiently.

The scene is therefore set for a battle over who has the lowest costs, provided banks and neo-banks care to fight for market share on price. This is far from being a foregone conclusion.

The Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation recently polled banking professionals to ask them what might be the likeliest cause of the next banking crisis. Banks do seem addicted to crises. The favourite candidate for banana skin, based on this bitter experience, was a fear that overcapacity would lead to folly, as internal pressures to lend led bankers to take silly risks once more.

So far, that fear has been confined mainly to big-ticket corporate lending. Having been bitten once on mortgages, most lenders are a sight more shy of risky borrowers and properties than they were a decade ago. Soon, however, they may be faced with a choice between unseen higher risks, visibly

lower margins or loss of trade. Only brave executives will dare to suggest sticking the surplus cash into gilt-edged.

### A serious venue for serious fraud

NEWS that major fraud trials are set to return to the Old Bailey smacks of a straw blowing in the right direction. Serious fraud presumably warrants a serious hearing at a serious venue. The Old Bailey most certainly fits the bill (no pun intended), whereas Chichester Rents, situated in Chancery Lane, does not.

To the casual observer, Chichester Rents, host to the George Walker and Maxwell courtroom epics, represents little more than a converted office block (precisely what it is) with an aura to match. The casual observer's perspective may not matter one whit but, should the jury share such views, a degree of gravitas is inevitably lost. At the least, jurors will now have the benefit of being able to watch the

expression of a witness, a feat which the architecture of Chichester Rents never quite lent itself to. The Old Bailey will, so the argument goes, restore dignity and formality to white collar trials. In the event, the Serious Fraud Office's case load is running at a record of more than 70, partly reflecting the lowering of the referral ceiling from £5 million to £1 million. George Staple, Director of the SFO, has fought a strong rearguard action in the wake of the Guinness and Blue Arrow controversies. Critics are bluntly reminded that since the SFO's inception in 1988, some 148 trials have led to the convictions of 210 defendants: a hit rate of 62 per cent. Onwards to Maxwell II, scheduled for October at the earliest.

### Confidence trick

PANIC makes bad law for markets as well as parliaments. After the 1987 crash, the New York Stock Exchange put in progressive anti-crash barriers for moves of 50 points, 250 and 400 in the Dow Jones average. Since then, the Dow has more than doubled, making the rules far more cautious than intended. The NYSE chose Easter to suggest they be relaxed. That is great chutzpah or lousy timing.

## Rivalry weakens banks and building societies

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE profitability of UK banks and building societies is under threat as they battle in an increasingly fierce competitive environment. According to research published this week by Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, the main risk facing UK financial institutions is competition.

A survey of the UK banking industry shows that increasing levels of competition are forcing down margins and putting earnings under pressure. Ian Linnell, associate director of S&P, said banks are responding by "paying attention to their cost bases and stripping out costs as much as possible." In the past,

he added, "banks were able to rely on inflation to get themselves out of difficulties through the appreciation of security. That is no longer guaranteed."

The report follows a hard-hitting study published last month by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation, which also suggested that intense competition in the banking sector would be the cause of the next banking crisis.

In his survey, Mr Linnell said competition in the UK banking sector has intensified over the past 15 years as a result of "deregulation, despecialisation and disinter-

mediation." The low interest rate environment has added to the competitive pressure, he said.

Despite the changes taking place in banks, as they turn themselves into "financial supermarket-type" franchises with significant market share offering a wide range of services to capture as many of a client's transactions as possible, banks are vulnerable to niche players, he said. These are attempting to cherry-pick the most profitable sectors.

Despite his concerns, Mr Linnell said the pressure would not have an impact on credit ratings, since banks were well capitalised and have

already, in some cases, suffered downgrades.

Mr Linnell published a separate study of the UK building society market. He said the member reward schemes being introduced by societies in an effort to demonstrate the advantages of mutual status over conversion to a public company could have a negative impact on earnings.

"A price war in the sector which could substantially reduce earnings and capitalisation, particularly if accompanied by a deterioration in asset quality, would inevitably put the system's ratings under pressure," he said.

## Harrisons finance director resigns

By PAUL DURMAN

THE finance director of Harrisons & Crossfield resigned yesterday, just three weeks after the chemicals and building supplies group announced its annual results.

Marin Anderson apparently left because of a personality clash with Bill Turcan, chief executive. His exit unsettled a puzzled City and shares in the group ended the day 9p down at 148p.

Mr Turcan gave little explanation for Mr Anderson's departure, but emphasised: "There is no question of financial impropriety, there are no financial or accounting issues. This is not another Woolwich. We jointly agreed that we would part

company. There was no single issue."

Mr Turcan said the group's report will show that Mr Anderson, who was on a two-year contract, was paid £191,000 last year. Although compensation has yet to be agreed, this suggests Mr Anderson could receive up to £380,000.

Mr Anderson joined Harrisons & Crossfield two years ago. He was previously a corporate financier with Hill Samuel, the merchant bank.

Mr Turcan said Harrisons & Crossfield had some strong internal candidates for the post of finance director. The company has also appointed headhunters.

## Microsoft enters 'intranet' alliance

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT has formed an alliance with MCI, the telecommunications company, and Digital Equipment, the computer maker, to provide a new kind of computer system for companies.

The move is part of Microsoft's aggressive drive to win back a dominant position in the Internet, which smaller rivals are threatening to steal from it.

The new grouping will provide companies with "intranet" systems — a kind of internal Web network not open to the public. Intranet systems, which use much the same software as the public Internet system, are useful for electronic mail, messaging and internal company communications.

Microsoft, Digital and MCI,

which is 20 per cent owned by British Telecom, said that the intranet business was worth about \$400 million in the US, and estimated that it would grow to \$8 billion by 1998.

Microsoft will supply the software, while Digital will provide the necessary hardware to set up intranet systems. MCI will contribute the communications expertise that is necessary to link up the system.

Microsoft has not established the dominant position on the Internet that it enjoys in the personal computer software market. Over the past two months, however, it has sought to outmanoeuvre smaller rivals, such as Netscape, that provide Internet software.

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# Shares end higher after a roller-coaster ride

SHARES in London went on a roller-coaster ride as the chill gripping the New York market thawed before it had time to take a grip on this side of the Atlantic.

Equities endured a nervous start following an overnight 88.5 point tumble on Wall Street, which came after Good Friday's US bond market slide inspired by unexpectedly strong US employment figures. Shares recovered from an early 29.4 point fall, with City nerves calmed as a return of buying interest at lower levels combined with slightly weaker than forecast industrial production data and a resilient performance by sterling.

Sentiment in London was further bolstered by an initial positive start in New York, though the Dow Jones industrial average encountered volatile early trading.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 3.0 higher at 3,758.6. Volume was thin, with only 604 million shares traded as many dealers and buyers engaged in an extended Easter break.

There was a two-way pull on Abbey National, down 1p to 562p. Abbey failed to hold an early rise inspired by broker recommendations as the Nationwide Building Society stepped up competition in the mortgage market with a quarter-point cut in its standard variable mortgage rate. Abbey received an initial boost as SBC Warburg, the house broker, reiterated its buy recommendation. The broker said it feels that the market is being too pessimistic about the effects of margin erosion on profits and sees the stock as relatively cheap at current levels. Credit Lyonnais, raising a deal which analysts estimate is worth up to £51 billion.

Talk of increasing corporate activity and bid speculation helped Schroders to jump 30p to £12.30 and Standard Chartered 12p to 637p, while a



Martin Edwards has seen success on the pitch boost shares

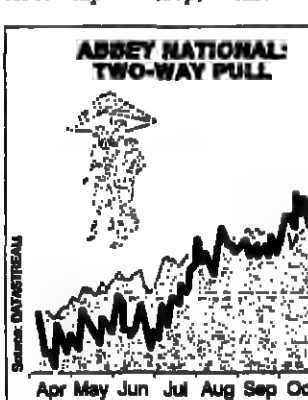
deal of this rumour, British Aerospace fell 10p to 888p on news that its finance director is to become chairman of Amersham International, up 26p to 965p.

The share price dip came in spite of talk that BAE is emerging as a leading bidder for one of Australia's key defence businesses, AWA Defence, in a deal which would

Granada Group eased 3p to 794p, before a presentation to sector analysts that will provide them with an update on trading ahead of the company's closed period. Analysts are keen to hear how the integration of Forte is progressing, as well as news on disposal plans of former Forte assets, including the Savoy stake.

mark the first step of a major expansion drive into Australia. BAE is also tendering for a contract to supply up to 40 training fighter aircraft to the Royal Australian Air Force in a deal which analysts estimate is worth up to £51 billion.

Talk of increasing corporate activity and bid speculation helped Schroders to jump 30p to £12.30 and Standard Chartered 12p to 637p, while a



Abbey National share price

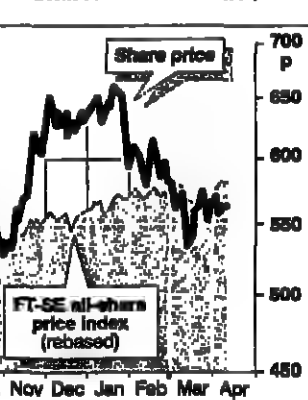
Kleinwort Benson recommendation helped MFI Furniture to add 3p to 166p.

The success of Manchester United on the pitch over the Easter weekend translated into gains on the stock market, with shares in the football club, where Martin Edwards is chief executive, climbing 23p to 315p. Man Utd is six points clear in the FA Cup

Premiership and still on course for an FA Cup and Premiership double, as well as next season's lucrative European Cup competition. However, a sober reminder of the world at the other end of the scale saw shares in beleaguered Millwall 4p to 2p as relegation fears loom for the First Division club.

Shares in Dewhurst, the

June series of the long gilt future ended 18 ticks lower at £105.95, as a mere 28,000 contracts were traded. Among conventional stocks, shorts lost up to 1p, while longer-dated issues retreated by about 1p and index-linked fell by about 1p.



FT-SE all-share price index

Marks & Spencer clothing supplier, eased 3p to 185p in spite of a 30 per cent advance in full-year pre-tax profits to £22.3 million. But Stirling Group, the clothing company whose principal customer is also M&S, jumped 7p to 60p, with the company touted as a bid target for Dewhurst.

Pendragon, the motor dealer that specialises in the luxury end of the market, rose 2p to 276p after being awarded representation rights for Fiat and Alfa Romeo in Greater London. Pendragon plans 15 new car showrooms.

Rentokil, the environmental and industrial services group, eased 1/2p to 369p as the market waits to see if it will raise its £1.9 billion hostile offer for BET, up 1p to 208p. Rentokil again urged shareholders to accept its offer for the business services group, though many analysts still think that an increase of just 5p to 10p in the existing 205.6p share offer is likely.

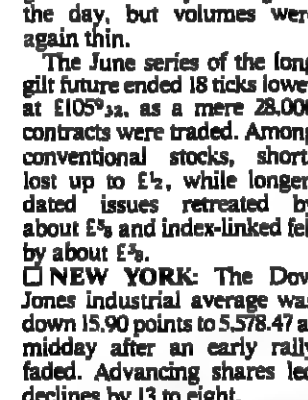
Elys (Wimbledon), the department store group, has urged shareholders to reject the £7 million offer from Panther Securities, the commercial property investor. Observers said Elys, unchanged at 600p, appears to have substantial investor backing, with trustees representing nearly 40 per cent of the equity saying they have no present intention of accepting the offer. Panther rose 1p to 63p.

Harris & Crossfield fell 9p to 148p on news that Martin Anderson has resigned as finance director after less than two years in the job. A spokesman for the company said Mr Anderson and the group had jointly agreed to part company.

GIIT-EDGED: Gilt opened with losses of almost one full point on the back of the recent falls suffered by the US bond market. There was a gradual recovery throughout the day, but volumes were again thin.

The June series of the long gilt future ended 18 ticks lower at £105.95, as a mere 28,000 contracts were traded. Among conventional stocks, shorts lost up to 1p, while longer-dated issues retreated by about 1p and index-linked fell by about 1p.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was down 15.90 points to 5,578.47 at midday after an early rally faded. Advancing shares led declines by 13 to eight.



Dow Jones index

New York (midday)	
Dow Jones	5578.47 (-15.90)
S&P Composite	646.05 (-0.19)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Average	21744.17 (-919.93)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	11107.37 (-32.51)
Amsterdam	
EOE Index	537.08 (+0.15)
Sydney	
ASX	2221.0 (+1.58)
Frankfurt	
DAX	2503.26 (+0.08)
Singapore	
SEAC	2362.13 (+16.96)
Brussels	
General	8875.07 (+0.25)
Paris	
CAC-40	2081.71 (+0.75)
Zurich	
SKA Gen	767.90 (-6.70)
London	
FT 100	3795.1 (+1.6)
FT 100	3795.6 (+3.0)
FT Mid 250	4371.1 (+0.1)
FTSE 350	1891.7 (+0.4)
FTSE Buratnick 100	1632.90 (+3.8)
FT A All-Share	1689.09 (+0.58)
FT Non Financials	1905.38 (+0.50)
FT Fixed Interest	111.81 (+0.08)
FT Govt Secs	92.27 (-0.25)
Banglad	
SEAC Volume	619.6M
USM (Datastrm)	210.18 (-0.32)
US\$	
Exchange Mark	1.5267 (+0.0033)
Exchange Index	2.794 (+0.0139)
Exchange Index	83.9 (+0.43)
Bank of England official cde (4pm)	
ECU	1.9191
£/D	1.70
RPX	150.9 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987-100
RPX	150.2 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987-100



THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 10 1996

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Nasdaq slows Demon Dan

NASDAQ, the New York over-the-counter share market, is instituting a new rule that allows it to suspend the shares of any stock tipped by Dan Dorfman, the demon tipster of the CNBC TV channel.

The controversial Mr Dorfman, America's best-known stock market journalist, has such a spectacular effect on share prices whenever he mentions a company, that Nasdaq wants to limit wild price fluctuations. The suspensions promise to become a daily event, since Mr Dorfman makes several of his frenetic TV presentations each day, often tipping a selection of stocks.

### Sidelined

RED FACES all round at Railtrack as it realises that the UK's leading rail city is without a shop for the forthcoming decentralisation. York, a major rail centre during the nineteenth century which built rail coaches until only a few months ago and is the headquarters of East Coast Mainline, has been left off the map. Thousands of rail pensioners and current rail staff in York will have to travel to Harrogate, Northallerton or Scarborough, to register their interest.



### Lap of luxury

BROWN'S HOTEL, the setting for Alexander Graham Bell's first successful telephone call in Britain, has secured another first. It is the only hotel in the world to offer Reuters Business Briefing information service — at a price. Captains of industry, who pay as much as £600 per night to stay at the exclusive Mayfair hotel, are handing over an extra £55 per day to hire a lap-top computer to access the service.

### Celebrity cakes

MEG RYAN and Bruce Springsteen were among the first passengers to sample a £100,000 deal struck between British Airways and Jane Asher, the celebrity cake baker. Asher will bake cakes for BA international flights to mark special occasions, including Halloween, and Christmas. Asher, whose contract includes a number of free first-class flights, made the most of her new deal last week on a trip to South Africa to film a biscuit commercial. She handed out the inaugural batch of cakes in the shape of spring flowerpots.

### Norman castle

TOP golfers have agreed to compete in a head-to-head match at entrepreneur Peter de Savary's 7,500-acre playground for millionaires, the Carnegie Club in Scotland. Greg Norman, the world's number one golfer, and US Open champion Corey Pavin, have agreed to tee off this July against the background of Skibo Castle for a match to be broadcast on American TV. Norman, dubbed The Great White Shark, has been a member of the £2,000-a-year club since it opened last year, and Greg Norman's Australian, Meat Pie is a regular feature on the clubhouse menu.

MORAG PRESTON



The urban wasteland of Detroit, a city abandoned by a million people in 30 years but now aiming to revitalise its core with public and private funding

# Motown begins drive back from its decades of decay

Ian Brodie on a comeback by Detroit as people power foils the street gangs

Visitors to Detroit are appalled by the sight of thousands of abandoned buildings. One even has its own historic marker. It commemorates the spot where Henry Ford set up the first assembly line for mass production, in 1913, and where, eventually, 9,000 Model T Fords could be turned out in a single day.

The marker notes, with unintended irony, that mass production set the pattern of abundance for life in the 20th century. It is all too obvious that good fortune has long since passed the old factory by. The roof and windows are broken. Its forecourt is cracked and strewn with litter. Across the street, the art deco shell of a Sears department store has been boarded up for years.

Similar chunks of forsaken buildings scar the eight-mile Woodward Avenue corridor that runs from the city limits into the heart of Detroit, where ageing skyscrapers stand empty. Numerous endeavours fell victim to the scourge, including churches, schools, banks, undertakers, motels, garages, cafes and bowling alleys. The side streets are pockmarked with derelict houses. Many were once graceful dwellings. Now their verandahs sag and the gardens are choked with weeds and junk.

In little over 30 years, Detroit lost 200,000 jobs and nearly one million residents. One-third of its businesses and half of its population fled. What had begun as a drift to the encircling suburbs became a stampede of white and black flight after the race riots of 1967, in which 43 people were killed and more than 400 buildings were burned. Those left behind were mostly the poor and elderly. Detroit's total of empty premises reached 15,000. No other American city suffered the distress of so great an exodus.

Now, after several false starts, Motown is rolling up its sleeves, determined to reverse the decades of decay.

Leading the charge is Detroit's mayor, Dennis Archer, an astute and energetic politician. Like nearly 80 per cent of Detroit, Mr Archer is black, a

crucial ingredient for his credibility and effectiveness. He admits that when he took office three years ago, he inherited a dysfunctional city. Red tape was rife. City Hall's bills went unpaid for months. Phones rang unanswered. Computers sat idle. Municipal workers were demoralised.

Conservatives demanded widespread privatisation of city departments, but Mr Archer believed that government should "not arbitrarily decide to do less. Instead, he formed 'turnaround teams' to examine every crevice of the city's operations and to discover how they could perform better, but more thriftily. The teams were drawn from city employees, trades unions and the corporate community. Ways were found to streamline services and to instil leadership.

The coalition forged between private and public interests was then expanded for a new task. More than a thousand participants joined forces to craft a plan for Detroit's future that would win over Mr Archer's friend and fellow Democrat in the White House, Bill Clinton. It worked.

President Clinton agreed to make Detroit an "empowerment zone" with a gift of \$100 million to ease the urban blight and tax breaks for any business — American or foreign — willing to set up shop in the zone. In a remarkable rallying of support, an additional \$2 billion has been pledged in private-development commitments by banks, corporations and foundations.

One British company is preparing to open a branch in the zone, if its bid to sell vehicle parts to Ford is successful. Mr Archer paints a rosy picture, but newcomers should brace themselves for a resurgence of trade union solidarity, as seen in the United Auto Workers' showdown with General Motors and the long strike against Detroit's two main newspapers.

A second public-private alliance has

just made a start on buying up 80 or so of the lifeless buildings that give Detroit's city centre the feel of a modern Acropolis. Their targets include Hudson's, a 25-storey hulk that was once the Selfridges of the Midwest, and the shuttered Statler Hotel, formerly a byword for elegance.

The plan to revitalise the city's core will mean either demolishing or refurbishing the dead buildings to make way for boutiques, offices, places of entertainment and lofts for rent to young professionals. It will take a lot of goodwill, but Detroit's Big Three — Ford, Chrysler and General Motors — are among the corporate sponsors solidly behind the project.

The would-be saviours of Detroit have scant patience for a provocative proposal by a cityscape photographer, Camilo Jose Vergara, that several blocks of the pre-Depression skyscrapers should be left standing as a national historic park of urban ruins. In his recent book, *The New American Ghetto*, Mr Vergara argued that the park would serve both as a monument to the fear of racism and as a warning to future planners of how quickly a city can plunge from prosperity to despair.

For all Mr Archer's efforts, Detroit still has a severe image problem. Crime is declining, but a series of bizarre episodes has accentuated the notion of a city on the edge.

The figure-skating champion Nancy Kerrigan suffered the crippling attack on her knee in Detroit. In another case, a terrified woman escaped attackers by jumping to her death from a bridge as callous, jeering onlookers urged her on.

First reports overlooked the fact that two men risked their lives trying to save the woman from drowning while others in the crowd frantically called police on cellular phones. Recently, a mother reportedly sold her 15-year-old son for

\$1,000 to pay a crack cocaine debt. Further investigation showed that he had volunteered to work for the drug dealers.

Detroit's flourishing underworld had long proved impenetrable to outside scrutiny. Now an intense FBI effort has led to 17 arrests. Among those detained is the reputed crime boss, Jack Tocco, described as one of America's most powerful Mafia figures. The accused have been linked to a 30-year trail of extortion, racketeering, illegal gambling and violence.

Nothing brought greater infamy to Detroit than the annual convulsion before Halloween known as Devil's Night. Dozens of gangs roamed the streets setting fire to abandoned structures and sometimes to those still occupied. Last year, the madness ended. In a remarkable marshalling of local pride, Mr Archer recruited 30,000 volunteers to patrol the streets and to report suspicious activity. As a result, the gangs stayed at home and there were fewer fires than on a normal night.

Mr Archer has just received further confirmation that his reforms have the support of working folk as well as the Chamber of Commerce. Voters gave him an overwhelming mandate to build a new stadium for the city's major-league baseball club, the Detroit Tigers. He argued persuasively that the project was pivotal to reviving the downtown wasteland and would attract new pubs, restaurants and hotels for thousands of fans.

Sceptics were less sure, but Mr Archer's enthusiasm is infectious. He claims that Detroit's loss of population has bottomed out at a shade over one million and that the next census will show an increase. New houses are going up, a novelty for Detroit. Unemployment has dropped more than five percentage points, to 8.2 per cent — a rate comparable to that in Britain.

Mr Archer claims, justifiably, that business confidence is returning. As he puts it: "Detroit is more than on its way back, we're on our way to becoming the new city of tomorrow." Maybe, but tomorrow will take a while to come.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## Wall Street is getting used to good news

Given that the employment figures the previous Friday were a genuine surprise, this week's display of steady nerves in the US markets was impressive.

There was advance warning calculated (deliberately?) to shake out nervous sellers, but the final fall in the Dow on Monday was only 1.5 per cent. Long-term interest rates have risen by less than 20 basis points. The story is solid evidence for this column's firm belief that derivatives and programme trading, which bring risk out into the open and price it, make markets less, not more, volatile.

But the real question is not about the market, but about the US economy. Why was the good news about jobs so surprising? And will New York keep its nerve if the good news goes on, as it seems likely to do for some time?

The central difficulty about reading the trends in the US is to sort out the effects of the normal determinants of growth — incomes, money and wealth — which are all solidly bullish, from those of enormous and very rapid structural changes, which produce a recession-like picture.

Consumer real incomes have been rising at an annual rate of 3.5 per cent over the last six months. Sales of houses and cars are buoyant — or in the case of cars and other durables, growing explosively (a 6.6 per cent annual rate over the last half-year). The broad money supply, M2, was rising so fast up to March that the only reaction was to try to explain it away (though it then fell), and Wall Street is up some 30 per cent.

The rational response to indicators like these would be to fear early overheating. The picture is disturbingly like that of 1994, when robust growth pushed long bond yields to more than 8 per cent for a time, and bond market vigilantes drew an even more sinister parallel with the credit boom of 1986, which did trigger inflation, not to mention a 30 per cent stock market "correction".

The other side of the picture is the steady transformation of the US into a part-time service economy. Output is gently rising, despite some reported inventory problems, but employment in manufacturing has gone on falling by an average of 27,000 a month for the last year (and no less than 62,000 in the "strong" March report).

This reflects the export of jobs to low-wage Mexico, within NAFTA, and other Latin American countries. It also explains why Patrick Buchanan has been able to frighten the Republican establishment with a largely protectionist campaign in the primaries.

More important for the markets, the structural change helps to account for the job insecurity which has so far kept wage growth subdued, in spite of the strike at General Motors.

Meanwhile, the service sector itself — the growth sector of the economy — is, as here, becoming increasingly part-time. The household jobs survey does not attract the big headlines which greet the employment report, but the fact that 38 per cent of the new March jobs are shown as part-time (up from 14 per cent a year earlier) deserves more attention. It means that this sector, which is largely non-unionised, is becoming more flexible.

There are other promising signs that non-inflationary growth may still have some way to run. The huge surge in investment spending, which began to tail off a year ago, seems to have been decidedly premature: the Fed's measure of capacity utilisation is still well below 83 per cent, far below the danger level. This also suggests that as output responds to higher demand, there should be a renewed surge in productivity, offsetting worries about unit labour costs.

Any boom is likely to be restrained. Credit card delinquencies have been rising and lenders are belatedly remembering prudence. So while more good news does seem likely, not so good as to be really frightening.

The improving economy will lift spirits at the White House

## HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE 1995 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

- Sales of £876m show 14% increase despite difficult economic conditions and unprecedentedly high levels of raw material increases.
- Profit of £48.4m on continuing operations only marginally below the 1994 result.
- Restructuring programme, including selective divestments, on schedule.
- Product innovation plus developments in USA and Eastern Europe, augurs well for an improving situation.

AGM to be held 2.30pm on Wednesday 17 April 1996 at

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Vita

## HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE 1995 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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### Loyal Lloyd's names the losers

From A.J. Welford  
Sir, The "affordable Lloyd's" settlement offer means exactly the opposite to many loyal names who have begged and borrowed to pay their losses and trade through, to support Lloyd's, and is manifestly unfair. They face a so-called cap of up to £100,000, but this is on top of losing all their funds at Lloyd's. These include their triple profits release, which they needed to pay creditors. Litigation settlement offers and guarantees at Lloyd's.

Many names, encouraged by the very top of the Lloyd's establishment not to be "wimps" and to pay their losses, have very large Lloyd's loss accounts with their banks. These, more often than not, are secured on their homes, as

are their guarantees. This means, to many, that the actual finality cost is more than £500,000 on top of the funds they have already poured into Lloyd's. These are the loyal names exhorting to trade on to support Lloyd's, incurring high annual costs in the process which have not been taken into account.

Contrast their situation with the names who stopped supporting Lloyd's, for whatever reason, and did not pay their losses and ran down their funds at Lloyd's.

Their losses are being written off and the maximum they will have to find, if it can be found, is £100,000, and often, much less. What a shabby

treatment from such a venerable institution and what a reflection on self-regulation. What a travesty of justice if this settlement is voted through by the majority, who did not support Lloyd's and cut their losses.

Lloyd's must recognise its debt to the loyal names in the same spirit as it has always honoured the claims from its policyholders. Surely Lloyd's did not intend the R&R to administer the "coup de grace" to those who have supported it the most.

We all want Lloyd's to continue and prosper, but not at the price of personal ruin. Lloyd's must ensure that it gives, at the least, the same

treatment to its loyal names as it is currently offering to those who did not support it.

This means recognising that names' debts, incurred in supporting Lloyd's, and the payment of their losses must be taken into account when the final sums are done. They must also have a profits release to appease their debtors and must be enabled to trade on by leaving their guarantees intact.

This will help to restore Lloyd's reputation and will avoid the growing impression that the settlement offer has been made on the basis that "the ends justify the means", however unjust.

Yours faithfully,  
A.J. WELFORD,  
Gothic Farm,  
Heveningham, Suffolk.

### When neighbour was putting off the Ritz

From David Leibling  
Sir, The Barclay brothers, owners of the Ritz Hotel, have offered to buy William Kent House, which stands off Piccadilly, behind the Ritz, for £100,000,000, and often, much less. What a shabby

sion, the owners are reputed to have said: "William Kent House is not for sale. However, we would like to buy the Ritz as we have always fancied a view over Piccadilly." Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LEIBLING,  
64 Kewberry Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex.

### Excluded from the terms of Railtrack deal

From Mr Roy Albinson  
Sir, Pamington suggests (March 27) that Labour policy might or might not be to "pursue our goal of stealing the track back from the people who own it". The present shareholders might well think that the sale itself is a steal and support this

view, as they are unable to vote on the terms of the sale already approved in advance at any price by proxy of a minority of shareholders. Yours etc,  
ROY ALBINSON,  
Courtlands,  
Mayfield Lane,  
Wadhurst, E. Sussex.









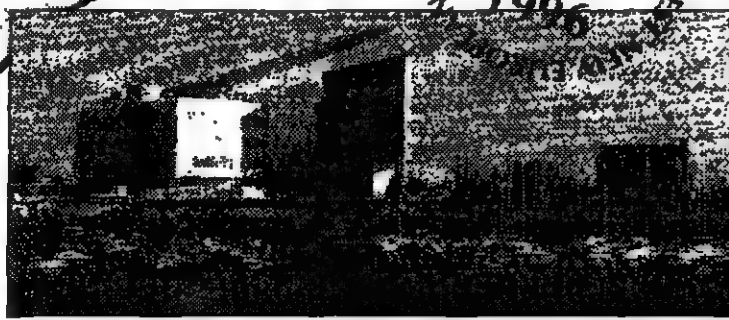


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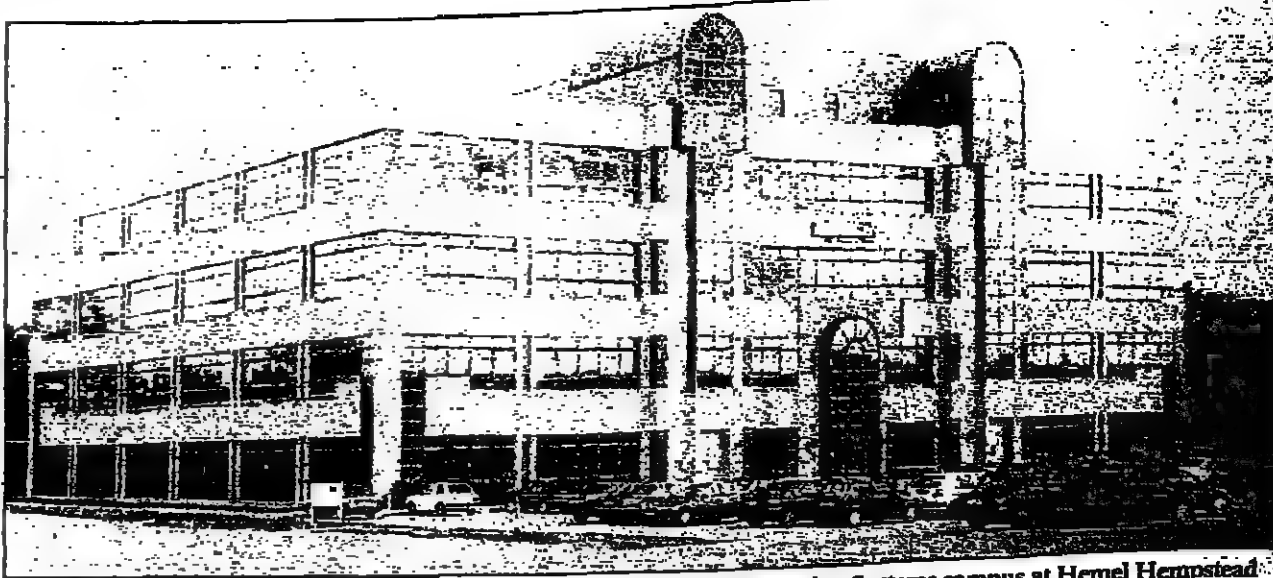
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As confidence returns, David Crawford sees a rise in office relocation



The 3Com Corporation's £10.3 million building on the McDonnell Information Systems campus at Hemel Hempstead

Business is on the move again. More companies than at any time since the early 1990s plan to take new space during the next two years — to the tune of 4.5 million sq ft in the South East alone. Decentralisation of jobs from central London is also about to rise from a 1995 low of 2,800 to 8,500, significantly more than the 20-year-plus annual average of 6,400.

But the benefits will not be spread as widely as in the past. Most private-sector moves from London, for example, will be short-haul — a point underlined by new research from the Commission for the New Towns and the CBI Employee Research Council, showing that organisations now prefer to stay close to their own locations — although the public sector tends to concentrate on the North West, Yorkshire and the South West.

Most future moves will be accompanied by substantial reductions of existing floor-space, largely low specification, rather than representing net additions. Net South East regional vacancies over the period 1996-98 are expected to total six million sq ft.

The Ministry of Defence relocation to Bristol, for example, could release two million sq ft of office space — 10 per cent of Whitehall's entire central London portfolio. The Government will, of course, continue to require a presence within range of Parliament, but, says Peter Evans of DTZ Research, "never again to the extent that it has in the past". Significant take-up of sec-

ond-hand office space coming on to the market will be restricted to highly active areas such as the City of London. This arises from the shortage of new prime space in the financial core. A wave of expansions and new inward investments by companies such as ABN Amro, Chase Chemical, and Deutsche Bank Morgan Grenfell has boosted the City's confidence ahead of would-be competitors such as Paris and Frankfurt.

At the same time, loosening of traditional City ties are evident in the large Docklands commitments made by Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Morgan Stanley, and by Banque Paribas's purchase of a site for a new 350,000 sq ft headquarters in Marylebone.

Nearly two thirds of predicted relocation activity, in fact, reflects fundamental changes in the business environment rather than concern solely over operating costs, as in the past. "Mergers, acquisitions and ongoing cost pressures are fuelling continued rationalisation and consolidation, with more energetic management of companies' operation-

Is Britain  
back in  
business?

al portfolios," says Chris Jolliffe, research partner at Jones Lang Wootton, whose recently published *Property Confidence Review* reflects the opinions of 554 UK-based companies.

His views are echoed in the *Milliken Report on Space Futures*, published last month by the Henley Centre on behalf of the US-owned Milliken Carpet. More than a quarter of facilities managers in organisations with more than 2,000 staff expected their space requirements to fall over the next five years because of new technology and changing business needs.

This new trend affects a whole range of traditionally major consumers of office floorspace, including financial services, conglomerates, chemicals and electronics.

Rationalisation of office occupancy by a relatively small number of electronics companies has already led to the shedding of 1.5 million sq ft over the past six months, more than half of total negative net demand. Continuing reorganisation within this sector, notably as a result of BT's sus-

tained downsizing, will also account for half the 10.5 million sq ft of space that respondents to the *Property Confidence Review* expect to vacate in the next two years.

Under BT's long-running relocation programme, for example, 1,400 jobs are due to move, mainly from the West End of London, to Stockley Park near Heathrow. BT's mooted merger with Cable & Wireless may well bring more rationalisation.

But contrasting evidence of real expansion in this sector comes from the "planning for growth" programme being progressed by the £1.3 billion turnover 3Com Corporation, which is implementing its largest-ever infrastructural investment in Europe.

Spread over four sites in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and the Marlow and Bourne End area of Buckinghamshire, 3Com is now consolidating on one site in Hemel Hempstead, with the £10.3 million purchase of an 85,000 sq ft building on the McDonnell Information Systems campus.

The company is also increasing its leased space at Bourne End before relocating that part of the business next year in the M4/M40 corridors.

To keep 3Com's options open, the consultants Jones Lang Wootton advised taking initial short-term leases. Chris Kane, a JLV partner, says: "This has enabled 3Com to cater for expansion without the worry of disposing of long-term commitments."

## RELOCATION

## RELOCATION

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Wetherby	1,000	Wetherby	10,000
Wetherby	1,000	Wetherby	10,000

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Leicester	4,000	Leicester	10,000
Leicester	4,000	Leicester	10,000
Leicester	4,000	Leicester	10,000
Leicester	4,000	Leicester	10,000

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...and Christopher Warman tells the good news of a £25m business park

## The Yanks are coming

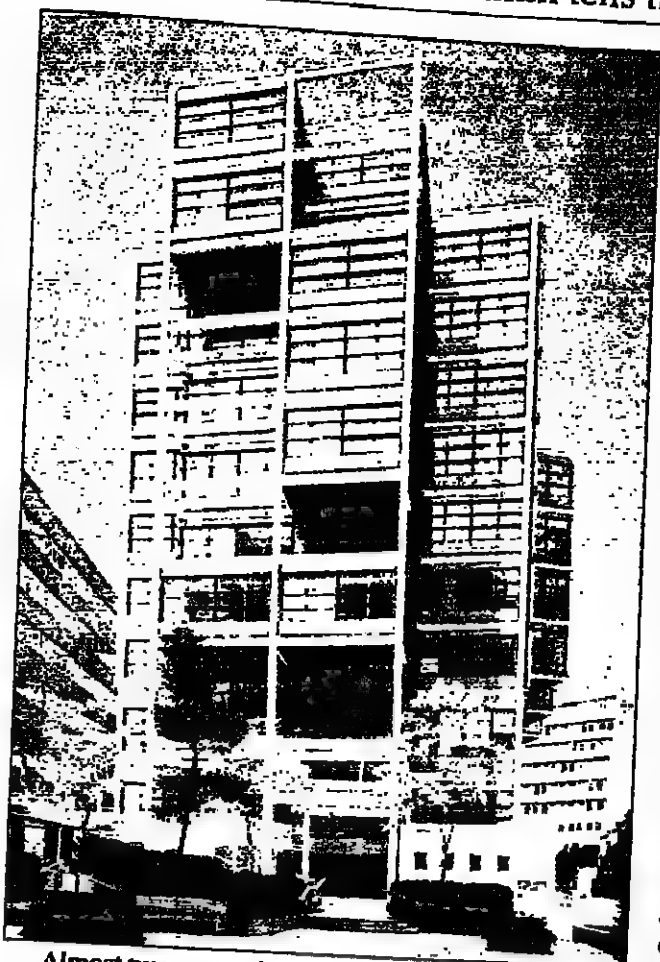
The move of an American company, Simula Automotive Safety Products, to the Wansbeck Business Park in Ashington, Northumberland, is a location rather than a relocation, but it demonstrates the competition among British regions to attract companies. Simula, one of the top 40 fastest-growing American companies last year, is taking over a 30,000 sq ft unit in a £4 million investment that will create 180 new jobs in manufacturing a new type of airbag to be fitted first into BMWs. Wansbeck, a £25 million park, has been developed by Wansbeck District Council in partnership with Northumberland County Council, English Partnerships and British Coal Enterprise. Simula chose Wansbeck after a European-wide search for its first plant outside the United States. Wansbeck sees the move not only as important in itself but crucial as a catalyst to bring more investment to the area. Denis Murphy, the leader of Wansbeck council, says: "It is extremely significant that a company such as Simula has recognised the investment potential in Wansbeck. A great deal of groundwork has gone into paving the way for a new economic era here. We have put in the right infrastructure; attractive financial packages are on the table, and we can offer a lifestyle which is unmatched by many other parts of the UK or Europe."

Simula was persuaded by the high quality of the English Partnerships scheme, the ease of access from Wansbeck to the Continent, a dedicated workforce which has adapted to learn new skills and a global telecommunications network into which the business centre is linked. The telecommunications network offers video-conferencing facilities, access to the Internet and state-of-the-art telematics — available on a hire basis.

Another factor is the North East's growing reputation as a leading manufacturing centre in the automotive industry. Simula's first products from the Ashington factory will be going into the 1997 range of BMWs, but the company says it is also hoping to supply to Nissan.

Wansbeck has attracted many overseas companies. Synpac, the pharmaceutical company, part of the Taiwanese Koo Group, recently announced a £7 million investment in new plant and technology at its Wansbeck factory to help to maintain its position as a leading worldwide manufacturer of Penicillin G. Lite-On, a Taiwanese company making electronic equipment, has also taken over an existing business in Wansbeck.

Other companies, such as Alcan, which has a local smelter and power station, and Welwyn Components, an electronics group, are — like Synpac, members of the Wansbeck Initiative, a partnership between the private and public sectors working to build a sound economic base.



Almost two years after moving into Fleet Place in London EC4, the law firm Wilde Saple has won the "existing buildings" category in the annual Office of the Year awards, organised by the British Institute of Facilities Management in association with *The Times*

### Victoria's little Eden

EDEN HOUSE, pictured, in Carlisle Place, London SW1, has come to market at a quoting rent of just over £30 a sq ft for the 38,935 sq ft building. The refurbishment of the former Borax House, overlooking the Westminster Cathedral piazza, was by Crest Nicholson Properties, which bought the building in 1994. The joint agents for the seven-storey building are Richard Ellis and Sparkes Porter.

SKANDIA Property (UK) Ltd, with Scottish Life Assurance Company, has secured the largest open letting in Cardiff for many years. Knox Court, its 59,900 sq ft development in the

#### MARKET MOVES



Fitzalan Place office area, has been fully let to the Legal & General Insurance Society.

The consultant Chesterton says the letting is believed to be on a fixed 15-year term with five-yearly, upward-only, rent reviews.

and the quoting rent is £16.50 a sq ft. Completed in February, Knox Court has full air-conditioning and raised floors. Its situation, near Cardiff shopping centre and in the heart of the commercial district, qualifies it for regional selective assistance grants.

Robin Wills of Skandia says: "There is a high demand for city centre offices within regional centres as decentralisation increases."

NATWEST Group Property has begun demolition work on its development at 1 St James's Square, London SW1 — the start of what some see as one of the most important office developments in the West End for more than a decade. On the site NatWest will build a seven-storey 100,000 sq ft office, designed by Sheppard Robson.

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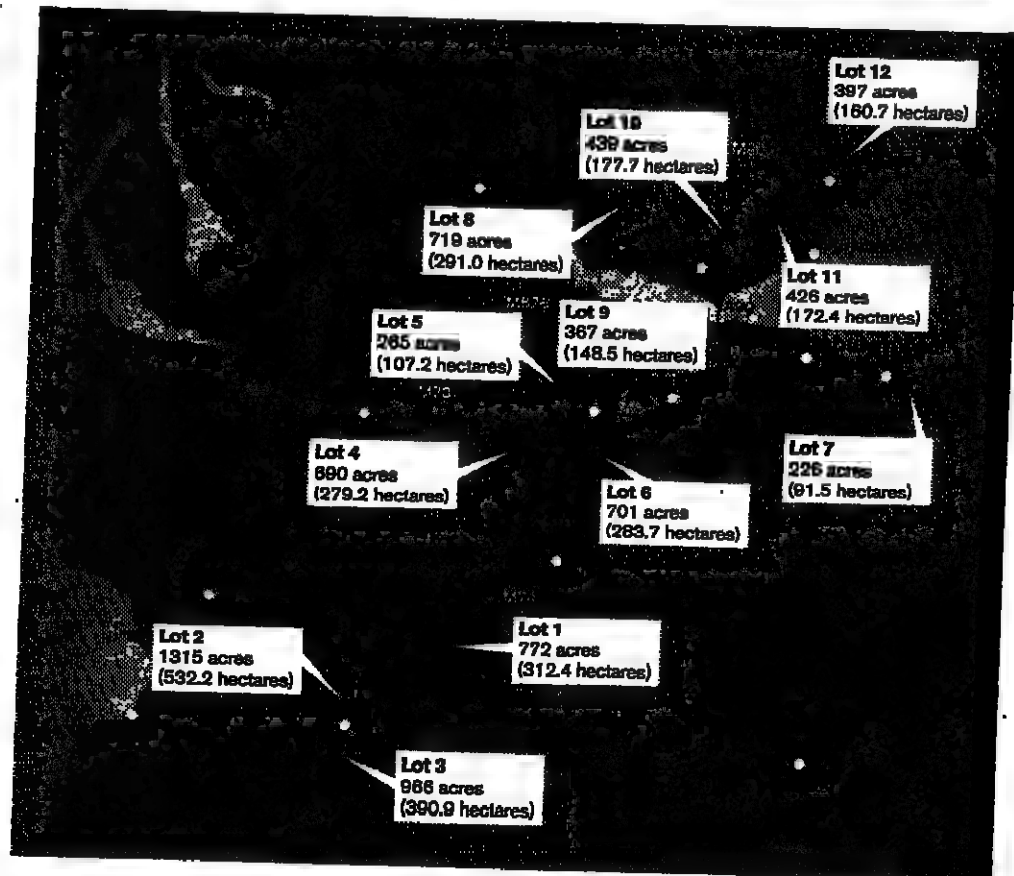
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## MUSIC 1

Harrison Birtwistle writes music that's loud, shocking and rude. But the world is wrong to censure him for it



## MUSIC 2

Harry Christophers and The Sixteen pull in the crowds — and give it their all — in Mozart's Requiem in London

## THE TIMES ARTS



## MUSIC 3

Under Claudio Abbado's direction, the Salzburg Easter Festival is now a model of serious artistic intentions



## MUSIC 4

The Norwegian Opera has a fine new Ring cycle in its repertoire, and it's headed for Britain

On the eve of a major celebration of Harrison Birtwistle, Paul Griffiths defends a great controversialist

## Roots in the past, a mind on today

Since last year's Last Night of the Proms, when his *Panic* lashed out for the first time, all the world surely knows that Harrison Birtwistle is the composer of music that is loud, shocking and rude. And all the world is right — but it is wrong to censure him for it.

Loudness can be exhilarating or challenging, shocks can open doors in the mind that one did not realise were standing there waiting to be unlocked, and rudeness, honest rudeness, may at least be telling us the truth. We hear an unaccustomed noise, and instinctively we run for cover. But we might gain more if we would stay out there a while, and listen, and grow to learn, even grow to love.

We have the chance. On Friday night the South Bank Centre will be giving British concertgoers a long-awaited opportunity to hear and see again Birtwistle's biggest work so far, *The Mask of Orpheus*, for the first time since it was staged by English National Opera in 1986.

On that occasion I wrote in *The Times* that the world was changed, and so it was. I cannot imagine the last decade without the opportunity, every now and then, to remember that evening in the Coliseum, and to try to take on board all it was saying about the slipperiness of stories, about — despite that slipperiness, and maybe even thanks to it — the hold over us possessed by myths, about the power of music to summon gods, about the multiple time-tracks on which we all pursue our lives.

This time around, *Orpheus* is only a beginning. Across the next three weeks will come a series of concerts, *Secret Theatres*, to bring us some of the works that led up to the opera, and some of those that have followed it, including the extravagantly inventive piano concerto *Antiphonies*, as well as a brand new piece for Birtwistle's longstanding champions the London Sinfonietta, and a whole programme of songs to words by

Paul Celan, punctuated by brief movements for string quartet.

One of the marks of Birtwistle's mastery — a mastery which *Secret Theatres* celebrates — is that any attempt to define his music is bound to fail. I mentioned at the start its loudness, and indeed it does enjoy what recourse it can get to the tonage of a big brass section in full voice, or the energetic noise of xylophones or drums, or the shriek of high woodwind. But then a lot of Birtwistle is quiet, and certainly his most haunting music

It is a mark of Birtwistle's mastery that any attempt to define his music is bound to fail

comes in long melodic lines that will often be found stepping in the background of his musical landscape, gently and almost secretly, humming to themselves.

So this is music that can be stealthy as well as shocking — and even the shock may be that of finding something one knew already, but did not have the music for the pitiless violence of nature (most definitely including the violence inherent in the nature of the human animal), the touching efforts people make to dress themselves against that violence, the depth of time, the sanctity of occasion. And if the effect can be rude, uncompromising, then Birtwistle has also written some of the most seductive love music of the late 20th century, and some of the most disconsolate laments.

Another contradiction is that Birtwistle should be seen as repre-

senting the far left of music when he stands so solidly with its great traditions. The disciplined savagery of his work is an inheritance from Varèse; the ceremonial forms provide a link with Messiaen; and he learnt from Stravinsky that a bunch of instrumentalists, whether a small group or a full orchestra, could become the dramatic personae in abstract plays of solo stance, group identity and crowd dissent, so that every piece of music is also a piece of theatre.

But Birtwistle's traditionalism has roots further back. I remember him saying — not with foolish pride, but with seriousness and dedication — that when he wrote for the orchestra he took his standard from Beethoven. This does not mean, of course, that his music apes Beethoven's style, or that it should do so. What was most traditional about Beethoven was his determination to create something different, of his own, out of himself. So it is with Birtwistle. And Birtwistle also seems to share something that is even rarer today, which is a belief in the Beethovenian paradox that music must be fiercely individual if it is to reach everyone, and that it must reflect today if it is to be of interest tomorrow.

Over the past 40 years, Birtwistle has reflected — and reflected on — many different worlds: the studiosity of the Fifties, the extroversion and scepticism of the Sixties, the retrenchment of the Seventies, the materialism of the Eighties, and now the wild mix of retrogression and hope that marks the ending of the millennium. And all the time he has stayed true to himself, and true to a certainty that music could be new and as the same time immemorably old — as old as regret, elation, cruelty and prayer.

Secret Theatres: The Harrison Birtwistle retrospective starts on Friday at the Festival Hall (0171-960 4242) with *The Mask of Orpheus*, and continues until May 4



## CONCERT

## Fast, furious and forte

EVER since the film *Amadeus*, Mozart's Requiem has pulled in the crowds, and Sunday night's performance at the Barbican by The Sixteen and the City of London Sinfonia under Harry Christophers was no exception: the hall was filled to capacity. It was an all-Mozart evening, with another favourite, the *Exultate, Jubilate*, and the *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* (including the much-loved *Laudate Dominum*) in the first half of the programme.

It was a big occasion, then, for the soprano soloist, who also has some of the best moments in the Requiem. Lynda Russell would not have been my first choice for Mozart; she negotiated *Exultate, Jubilate* with moderate success, but her voice lacks the

The Sixteen/Christophers Barbican

range, especially in the lower register, and, it must be said, the quality to be able to bring off a truly special performance. Towards the end of the evening especially, she tended to sing everything forte — but in this she was not alone.

The other soloists, Catherine Wyn-Rogers (now there's a voice with quality), Mark Padmore and Michael George, were of a different calibre, so it was a shame they had so much less to do.

The real stars were, of course, The Sixteen, here expanded to some 26 singers and including the best freelance professionals that London has to offer. Clarity and precision are the hallmarks of The Sixteen; in Mozart they are in Renaissance polyphony; it is just still more of a treat in Mozart. They gave it their all, whether in the whirlwind psalm settings of the Vespers (plenty here to presage the Requiem) or that melting moment in the "Confutatis" where the sopranos enter on "Voca me". Even that could have been quieter, but by then the City of London Sinfonia and Harry Christophers had the bit between the teeth and were careering towards the finishing post.

Christophers's approach was generally fast and furious, and this generated much excitement, especially in movements which lend themselves perfectly to the hell-for-leather treatment such as the "Rex tremendae". Others, such as the Offertorium, seemed too precipitate, with Mozart's string writing trampled in the headlong rush.

The City of London Sinfonia, with concessions to historical awareness (though not as many as advertised) played like the excellent modern orchestra they are, with Christophers apparently making little stylistic impression. That is, if he wanted to, for in those passages that demanded a slower pace, the interpretation was decidedly Romantic. In any case, he was unable to bring the same light and shade to the orchestral playing as to the singing of his superb choir.

TESS KNIGHTON



Carol Yahr as Brunnhilde in *Götterdämmerung*: her performance is a tour de force

## Fresh Nordic insights

Before 1993, Wagner's *Rheingold*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* had never been staged in Norway. Over the past three years, therefore, the Norwegian Opera has been building up its first Ring, under the baton of the former East German conductor Heinz Fricke and produced by the British director Mike Ashman, but with largely native singers making their debuts in the roles.

The project is now complete, with a *Götterdämmerung* that has just opened; two cycles will be given in Oslo and British audiences will be able to see the entire Ring cycle at Norwich's Theatre Royal in June 1997.

The strength and great joy of this production is that musical and theatrical elements work not only effectively in their own terms but also in combination with each other. The production teems with fresh insights.

It opens with a striking image: the three Norns, locked in embrace, against a bare, brooding Nordic landscape. At the end of the following scene, as Brunnhilde bids farewell to Siegfried, she raises a statuesque arm and the stage revolves — an exciting moment with the orchestra in full flood. For Siegfried's Rhine journey, a curtain de-

Norwegian Opera has its first full Ring cycle, and it's headed our way

scends with a conventionally painted Rhineland scene.

If at this point the traditionalists breathe a sigh of relief, they are in for a shock. The Gibbung Hall is a vaguely futuristic vision. Hagen monitors Siegfried's progress while seated at a control desk, and bellows his repeated "Hoiho!" as through a public address system. The austerity of the sci-fi décor is complemented by a pair of bright red armchairs, the "throne" of Gunther and Gutrune.

Terje Stensvold's Gunther is a towering performance; he is wisely portrayed not as the usual ineffectual pawn of Hagen, but as an unscrupulous character who knows what he wants. He comes dangerously close to eclipsing Gudjon Oskarsson's Hagen vocally, but this is a fine performance in a different mould. Unlike the lumbering Hagen of tradition, Oskarsson is a prowler. Hyperactive, obsessive, a chil-

ling portrait of the misfit who turns out to be a killer.

Kjersti Ekeberg is a very acceptable Gutrune. The Siegfried of the American James O'Neal tends towards the lyrical rather than the heroic, but it is capable of good things.

Kathrine Hysing's sets and costumes for the second and third acts continue the ambivalence (and hence the universality) of the first. Minimalist in conception (a simple portal in Act II, a slab of rock in Act III), the sets are animated by John Bishop's virtuoso lighting plot, telling in its casting of facial shadow, spectacular in creating a portentously blood-red sky or, for that matter, a final conflagration.

Rosemarie Lang's Waltraute and Oskar Hillebrand's Alberich are excellent. Carol Yahr's Brunnhilde is a triumph. Originally a mezzo, Yahr just occasionally gives cause for concern at the top, but the passion with which she invests the vocal line makes it a tour de force.

Fricke's conducting is outstanding. He knows exactly how to keep things on the move. This is Wagner conducting on a par with anything that can be heard in the world today.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## The best of intentions

Jamie James reflects on the brilliant highlights and ambitious disappointments that marked this year's Salzburg Easter Festival

As the Salzburg Summer Festival becomes ever more controversial, giving rise to a suspicion that it is more at the service of directorial egos than of art, the Easter Festival is now a model of serious artistic intentions, if not always of great accomplishments.

Everyone you meet in Salzburg is eager to tell you that Karajan still casts a long shadow here. Yet by any fair measure, in the three years since he was named artistic director, Claudio Abbado has made changes that have fundamentally altered the festival, putting his stamp indelibly on the ten-day event.

He instituted an avant-garde chamber music festival called *Kontrapunkte*, which awards a prize for composition; this year's laureate was the young Italian composer Marco Stroppa. The prize was presented to Stroppa by jury chairman Luciano Berio at a recital in the Mozarteum, which was led by the 21-year-old English conductor named Daniel Harding, formerly an assistant to Sir Simon Rattle in Birmingham. The Easter Festival has also established prizes in literature and art; this year, the honorees were the novelist Didier van Cauwelaert and the British sculptor Rachel Whiteread.

In order to open up the performances to an audience beyond the ermine-and-Louis-Vuitton set (top ticket prices here are now well over £300), Abbado has instituted a cheap pass that admits the holder to all rehearsals for the evening concerts, which are always sold out.

While this year's Easter Festival did offer some fine performances, generally artistic reach exceeded grasp. The first night, as ever, was a new opera production. Abbado invited the Italian film-maker Ermanno Olmi to produce *Otello*, with Plácido Domingo, inevitably, in the name part. The production was marred by a mountainous unitary set by Lucio Fanti, a dreary heap of stone slabs scattered helter-skelter, which was more suggestive of a dilapidated Druid temple than the regal splendour of the Lion

of Venice. Olmi's staging was strangely inert, perhaps drained of vitality by the awkward set.

Yet these were the finest musical moments of the festival. Abbado elicited a performance of mighty intensity and bold proportions from the Berliners, who were powerfully assisted by the choruses of the Vienna State Opera and the Slovak Philharmonic Chorus of Bratislava. The playing indeed proved to be a bit too magnificent for Domingo, who had difficulty making himself heard over the orchestra at several points. By the finale of the second act, he looked and sounded quite drained, but he came back credibly after the interval.

Ruggero Raimondi was superb in his debut in the part of Iago, communicating the full measure of evil in Verdi and Boito's fabulous creation; at the conclusion of the *Credo* he seemed almost to astonish himself at the blackness of his soul. Barbara Fritoli was a real discovery as Desdemona. At first her full, rich voice seemed perhaps a bit too meaty for this role, but by the end of the love duet, it seemed just meaty enough. She was utterly captivating in the finale, executing the pianissimo of the Willow Song with impressive control.

If Abbado's Verdi gained steely strength from a dose of Germanic rigour, his performance of Bruckner's Symphony No 7 might have benefited from a mollifying southern touch. It was unquestionably a virtuosic performance by the orchestra, but in some key passages Abbado seemed to be exaggerating the score's extremes, setting one section of the orchestra against another as though it were a competition rather than a group effort. He was outshone, Bruckner-wise, by Bernard Haitink, who had conducted a tasteful,

exquisitely nuanced performance of the Fourth Symphony the evening before.

This being Salzburg, both of the Bruckner symphonies were paired with concertos that Mozart wrote here, the Fourth with Piano Concerto No 9 in E flat major (KV271), played with his wonted suavity by Murray Perahia, and the Seventh with the Sinfonia Concertante (KV364), with Berlin concertmaster Rainer Kussmaul and first violinist Wolfgang Christ taking the solo parts.

The cycle ended with a banging whimper, a clamorous and somewhat hectic performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 9. The strings were particularly disappointing, hazy and unfocused in the first movement, and less than ideally assertive in their responses to the brass in the third movement. The introduction of the "Freude" theme by the lower strings in the finale seemed rushed and perfunctory.

Bryn Terfel brought some relief with his virile, pleasingly stentorian introduction of the Ode, but it was too late: the finale careered to its conclusion at a breathless pace, and none too expressively.

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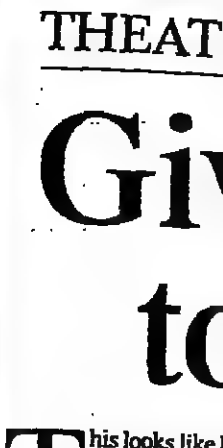




**JAZZ**  
The legendary blues player Ray Brown takes time out from his crowded European tour to come to Britain



**THEATRE 1**  
From famine to feast, suddenly it's all happening for Martin Sherman, whose new play opens this week

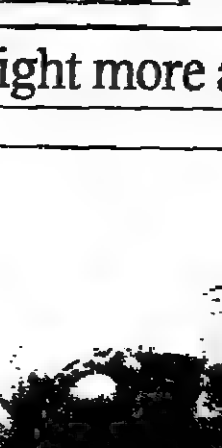


**THEATRE 2**  
David Hart delves deep inside the tormented mind of Gladstone, in his new play *Victoriana*



# THE TIMES ARTS

**THEATRE 3**  
... while the divine madness of the Ken Campbell mind is explored in the retrospective, *Choice Chunks*



**THEATRE 4**  
And *The Fruit Has Turned To Jam* proves to be a wacky three-hander by the all-women Scarlet Theatre



**THEATRE: Matt Wolf meets Martin Sherman, the American playwright more appreciated in Britain; plus reviews**

## Give no regards to Broadway

This looks like being Martin Sherman's year, despite not having written a new play for seven years. The American dramatist's new work, *Some Sunny Day*, opens tomorrow, boasting the sort of starry cast (Rupert Everett, Cheryl Campbell, Corin Redgrave) that sounds destined to enliven the West End.

And that's not all — shooting is completed on his first original film script — *Indian Summer*, starring Anthony Sher and directed by Nancy Meckler — and next month sees the start of production on a film of his best-known play, *Bent*. In addition, Sherman is working on scripts for both Mike Newell and for Nicholas Hytner: the latter project is an adaptation of *The Dybbuk*, transplanted to Atlantic City in the 1950s.

The demand is due in some measure to the success of his first film, *The Clothes in the Wardrobe*, based on Alice Thomas Ellis's novel, which was a Bafta nominee and had an acclaimed cinema run in America in 1994 under the title *The Summer House*.

"I've never even approached being this busy," Sherman says, marvelling at the shift in profile from his early years spent knocking around off-Broadway where, as he recalls, "I basically couldn't get arrested." Born in New Jersey and educated at Boston University, in the 1970s he became part of the same emerging New York generation as Lanford Wilson and Terrence McNally. But whereas those playwrights went on to win Pulitzer and Tony Awards, Sherman

began noticing one salient fact: the best productions of his work were being done in England.

"I either wasn't produced, or I was produced badly," he says, looking back on those years less with bitterness than with humour. His free-wheeling dissection of 1960s mores, *Cracks*, had audiences "falling from trees saying it's production. That gave me so much personal satisfaction."

Sherman's career is full of comparable stories. "Everyone, I think, thought *Bent* was a fluke," Sherman says of his only play to reach Broadway, in 1980. The production, starring Richard Gere, brought its author a Tony nomination.

Several years after that production closed, Sherman was dropped by his New York agents. Indeed, it seems significant that it has taken the influence of his close friend Wendy Wasserstein, herself a highly commercial New York playwright, to get an off-Broadway showing next year of Sherman's 1989 West End play, *A Madhouse in God*, which starred Vanessa Redgrave in its London run.

Sherman has his own theories about his greater acceptance in London. "My plays do seem to be about outsiders, so perhaps I was always an outsider to whatever was happening in New York."

He finds London a simpler place in which to live and work. "It's much easier if you're not English than if you are: you don't have to deal with class and judgments and categories all the time. People respond to me only as an American, and whatever their prejudices, hates, or likes about an American author are, they are nothing compared to the judgments they make about their own race."

He has higher regard, too, for a playwrighting environment free of the countless workshops upon which the American theatre depends. "The belief over there is that playwrights are cripples who don't

really know what they're doing and have to be led, coddled and constantly corrected." As proof, he cites initial reaction to the startling second act of *Bent*, in which two gay men incarcerated at Dachau are given the lethal task of shifting rocks from one pile to another and pause only to achieve orgasm by verbal means. "All the advice I was getting was, 'You can't have two men moving rocks for an hour', as if I was being punished for not being the dutiful child."

What the American mainstream will make of *Some Sunny Day* is anyone's guess. Set during a steamy Egyptian summer in 1942, the play focuses on a community of foreigners in Cairo, few of whom are what they appear at first to be. Coupling a cockeyed nod to *Hamlet* with elements of cloak and dagger (among other genres), the



Martin Sherman has had only one hit back home, but several in Britain. Will *Some Sunny Day*, which opens this week, be the next?

**‘The belief in America is that playwrights have to be led, coddled and corrected’**

play has Sherman's usual ripeness alongside "a collection of people so disparate and so eccentric that they would obviously appeal to me." Several of the characters could have stepped out of the charged bohemian world of *When She Danced*, Sherman's play about Isadora Duncan that has received two separate stagings in London (and one calamitous one off-Broadway).

And if things are looking up for the playwright, that only confirms what he was told by an astrologer some 30 years ago in New York. "He said my life was going to be miserable for a long time, and then it was going to improve radically. I was very depressed at the time — but it has all been true."

● *Some Sunny Day* opens at the Hampstead Theatre (071-722 9301) tomorrow night



Celia Roberson (left) and Adrienne Swan as a pair of "fallen women" in *Victoriana*, David Hart's play about William Gladstone's involvement with ladies of the street

## A Prime Minister walks in the dark

First, a personal confession. I once had an idea for a play about Gladstone, deciding that his long involvement with ladies of the street, of course — had the stuff of evident drama to it.

He would bring one of them back to No 10 and take off her shawl, only to discover that she was a young man in disguise, an Irishman to boot, who would proceed to harangue the Grand Old Man on the Irish Question and convert him to the cause.

I decided the idea was perhaps a little too fanciful, but it was anchored in reality

compared with what happens to Gladstone in David Hart's play, even before Disraeli arrives to meet him in St George's Church — a metaphor for England, I suspect — and appears there wearing only a loincloth, hanging from the Cross, to deliver a speech on the Jewish Question.

We are more or less inside Gladstone's mind by this point. Where once he voted for Jewish Emancipation, 40 years of sitting opposite Ben Disraeli has turned him into a rabid anti-Semite. He spews out racial hatred, in the time he has to spare after allowing

**Victoriana**  
New End

pretty ladies — not all from the streets — to unbuckle the front flap of his trousers and do what is necessary.

I don't know about you, but from what I remember of Gladstone's tormented sexual anxieties this openness does not strike me as likely, particularly as we are not inside his mind in these scenes but in society drawing rooms and boudoirs. His proto-Nazi ravings are even less persuasive.

The interesting notion that

at first seemed to be Hart's dramatic question is whether or not Disraeli ever told the Queen about Gladstone's nocturnal wanderings, and if so what effect did it have on the Liberal administration?

To ask Disraeli this question Hart brings on Mr Punch, a thoroughly nasty piece of work, in red and yellow motley, who eventually points to his hooked nose, his own nose, that is, and says words to the effect of: "You can tell me, Ben. I'm a Jew as well."

The political play is thereupon taken over by the Jewish play, and not all the golden

suavity of Jonathan Elsom's voice enabled me to follow the arguments in Disraeli's god-like, and very long, closing speech.

The author had the misfortune to lose the other leading man during rehearsals, and though Jon Harries's direction is not exactly wooden, his performance as Gladstone, though gallantly undertaken at short notice, is fairly plunk-like.

Perhaps fiercer sparks would have flashed from the character if the production had gone according to plan.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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● BUY the best available stalls seats for £6 (normally £7.50 to £12.50) to see Kay Mellor's funny and touching play, *A Passionate Woman*. Tel 01222 57889
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## Trolley load of Ken

Choice Chunks  
Waterman's Theatre

appearance of the sink-plunger, to be attached to the cranium, is a reminder that what he has been tossing into the trolley is probably old product after all, but in a different wrapper.

Nobody who has heard him talk of the Ken Dodd routines turned into pignia by an actor travelling through Melanesia will be sorry to listen to it all again. Nor the revelation that somewhere out in the New Hebrides the Duke of Edinburgh is worshipped as a god.

## Mad and bad in the library

THE ground is buried beneath a spill of novels covered in that sad cellophane that speaks of public libraries. Below a clutch of battered institutional lamps, three wooden cupboards stand in a line, doors shut.

After a sudden black-out three torches switch on inside, creeping up the cracks. Out of a drawer a hand pushes up. Next thing you know in this wacky three-hander by the women's troupe Scarlet Theatre, a jaunty theme tune has piped up. A dusty librarian (Jane Guernier), her bun dishevelled, emerges from her locker, chalks up another day, and sets off on her rounds, tidying away the hand on route. She repeats the cycle with the absurdity of a clown.

Yet she has the air of being at once frantic and grounded down. Indeed, she looks as if a bomb has hit the library. Her face is blackened, her behaviour perhaps shell-shocked. Two other women (Amanda Hadingue and Maeve Larkin), their blouses in shreds or blood-soaked, launch into a routine impersonating the chaps from *Dad's Army*. This may be an aggressive game or a comfort, avoiding reality.

Meanwhile Guernier keeps asking if this is the land of the library because she (he?) is about to be betrothed to Elizabeth. Sometimes

they all fall down dead. Sometimes they hide in their cupboards and sing. Hadingue and Larkin scabble on the floor like schoolgirls or lovers, fighting for a hungrily sucked humbug.

Maybe this is insane but it is also funny. Jyll Bradley's text knits the pedantic with the surreal. The cast investigate closeted women's lives, frustrated and ambiguous sexuality, ageing, discipline and uncertainty.

Still, the action lost me. Larkin smearing herself with blood may have been associated with stifled sexuality, madness and murderousness or female fertility and mortality. The significance needs sorting out and the serious moments require sharpening.

Yet, co-directed by Grainne Byrne and Emma Bernard, the cast are delightfully inventive. Scarlet Theatre is a trove of talent.

KATE BASSETT

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RELOCATION



TO ADVERTISE  
CALL: 0171 680 6806

# LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:  
0171 481 9313

## SECRETARY S.W. LONDON

Our client, an international Energy Company is seeking a Secretary with at least 2 years' experience to assist the PA to the CEO.

You will be educated to GCSE level and computer literate in WAW, and Excel. Fluency in Spanish is essential and knowledge of other languages useful ie Farsi, Chinese. Good communication and telephone skills, the ability to be a team player and total flexibility are also required.

All applications will be forwarded to our client. Please forward your CV to The Confidential Reply Service, Nicholson-Martin, Suite 210, Mill Studio, Crane Mead, Ware, Herts SG12 9PY

## ADVERTISING FILM CREATIVE SECRETARIAL CAREERS JOB OF THE WEEK

**TELEVISION PRODUCTION (West End) £18-20K**  
Our client, a prestigious Television Production company specialising in documentaries is looking for a well presented Secretary/PA to work for the Managing Director. The ideal candidate will have an attractive personality with good shorthand and typing skills. Shortlisted: 80/80 wpm Typing: 80 wpm.

**FILM PRODUCTION - RECEPTION £13-15K**  
This fast paced, but very fun film company are looking for a young receptionist who will be able to cope with all the demands of a busy switchboard as well as supervising cleaners and runners. Reception experience essential.

**TEMP AND TEMP TO PERM BOOKINGS**  
We have constant opportunities for long and short term for qualified secretaries and PAs with a flexible outgoing approach. If you have 80 wpm typing, at least 2 Windows packages, preferably with Excel and PowerPoint, then we offer exciting bookings and competitive rates.

**PLEASE CALL FOR A CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION WITH A QUALIFIED CONSULTANT ON 0171 434 3511.**

**Pathfinders**  
37-39 GOLDEN SQUARE, W1

## Get Ahead! Up to £25,000 Mayfair

The world of Executive Search is an exciting one... highly confidential assignments... quickly changing deadlines... people contact at the highest level. Strength of character and energy are crucial when supporting two dynamic directors with extensive client liaison and hectic diary management. Your City knowledge will ensure an understanding of this professional and fast paced environment. An eye for detail, fast typing (65wpm+) and excellent secretarial experience are essential. Please call Fiona Mackay on 0171 434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants

## Powerpoint Expert? £16,500 + Benefits West End

Energy, confidence and enthusiasm are all needed to support a team of four busy consultants within an international blue chip organisation. Your role will be busy and varied, providing full secretarial and administrative support. Organising hectic diaries, coordinating executive travel arrangements and liaising with worldwide clients, in addition to using your excellent Powerpoint to produce top quality presentations. You must have 5 good GCSE's, 60 wpm typing and be on the ball! Please call Deborah de Kock on 0171-434 4512.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants

## DO YOU STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD? ...WE DO! UP TO £30,000

Are you looking for an Agency with a difference? An Agency which listens, advises and is genuinely interested in helping you with your next career move? Knightsbridge Secretaries believe they might be the solution. We are a professional consultancy with a reputation for friendly, approachable consultants and what's more, unusual jobs at exciting salaries. To what your appetite...

30K Entrepreneur 20K Trading (80% admin/exp usd)  
25K W-End Baking 18K Childrens TV  
22K Marketing/PR 15K Design/Films  
20K Private House 13K High profile Charity

Don't leave your career to chance...RING TODAY!

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES E**

0171 235 8427

## SALES SECRETARY

This leading business consultancy is looking for a committed and enthusiastic secretary to join its sales team. This position will appeal to individuals with a flair for multitasking, presentation work and excellent communication and secretarial skills (Powerpoint essential). Excel an advantage. Please call Portia Lineham.

## BROADCASTING PA

Dynamic company based in the West End requires a proactive senior PA with outstanding secretarial skills (90/60) to work for a high flying director. With extensive P.A. experience you will have dealt with senior clients, arranged complex diary and meeting itineraries within Television or Advertising. Please call Emma Dale.

## PUBLISHING P.A.

A renowned financial city-based publishing house has an opportunity for an experienced P.A. looking for a varied role within a dynamic team. This will appeal to individuals with at least two years secretarial experience, who have the ability to liaise with and support the editorial team and carry out an extensive one to one role with the head publisher. Please call Monique Cooke.

## INVESTOR RELATIONS P.A.

An international corporation has a fantastic opportunity for an outstanding secretary to work for its Investor Relations department. Responsibilities will include: researching environmental issues, organising travel and liaising with top level management. You should be able to demonstrate sound secretarial skills (including shorthand), and a flexible and responsible outlook. Please call Portia Lineham.

**SECRETARIAL & TEMPORARY RECRUITMENT**  
Tel: 0171 778 0233  
Fax: 0171 778 0113  
10 Leinster Street  
London WC2E 8JF

**MAINE-TUCKER**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
**Art. Sports. Restaurants.**  
CULTURAL BEGINNINGS!  
UP TO £16,000

Are you a person with a basic knowledge of art, sport, culture and a keen eye for detail? If so, we have a fantastic opportunity for you to join our team of consultants. You will be responsible for sourcing and recruiting talent for the cultural sector. This is a challenging and rewarding role for someone who is passionate about the arts and has excellent communication skills. If you are interested, please send your CV to: Maine-Tucker, 18-21 Jersey Street, St James's, London SW1A 3HP. Telephone: 0171 734 7341. Facsimile: 0171 734 5210.

**The Taste of Success!** £19,500 + benefits

Our client's brand enjoy high profile success around the globe. They now seek an outgoing, confident person to handle training course and workshop admin, organise conferences and provide statistical reports. Graphics skills, numeracy, large co. background essential. French and/or shorthand a bonus. Typing 60wpm.

**Market Analysis...** £14,000 - Admin/Rec

This small strategic consultancy was set up 5 years ago to help companies to succeed and grow. They now need to bring in someone with at least 6 months work experience, to play an admin role (80%) and help cover reception (20%). Typing needed c. 40wpm. Lovely team environment. Genuine career prospects.

**College Leaver?** £12,000 + bonus

This is a brilliant opportunity to gain a thorough grounding in Personal AND make a flying career start at the same time! This highly successful expanding Management Consultancy needs you to come in to a fast-growing Personal Support team, help get them organised and then develop the role. Good typing (40wpm) needed.

**Immediate Openings for 'LiveWire' Temps**

We have more work than we can handle at present. If you are a Sec/PA with good WP skills, or have reception experience, or if you are simply a team player with lots of initiative and typing, call now!

Please telephone 0171-494 4460 or fax 0171-494 4460.

**GORDON YATES**  
Recruitment Consultants  
Gordon Yates recruits on the basis of merit and equal opportunity.

## TV MEDIA

Based in the heart of London's Media Centre this is a PA role for a dynamic and enthusiastic individual. The role involves a mix of secretarial and administrative duties, including diary management, travel arrangements and general office support. The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills and be able to work under pressure. Please call Emma Dale.

## TWO SENIOR PA/SECRETARIES

To form a key team for a small group of consultants. Both will carry out high level PA, secretarial and administrative work and management of office and control resources. You will be working with a group of individuals, interesting, and at times demanding consultants who deal at the highest levels of the private and public sectors.

**The Company**  
Based in attractive offices in Victoria, PJR is a small consultancy specialising in Organisation Development.

**Essential Requirements**

- Accurate, efficient, calm under pressure and flexible
- Outgoing, articulate and excellent telephone manner, confident
- Experienced and competent in complex diary management
- Responsible for smooth running of the office
- Highly skilled in word processing, presentation, use of spreadsheets and graphics packages.
- Confident dealing with people at the most senior level

**Desirable**

- Previous consulting (or similar) experience
- Experience of latest version of AppleMac

Salary £17,500 - £21,000. Non-smoker preferred. No agencies please.

Requests for application forms to PJR Limited, 29 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY. Fax: 0171 630 8533. Closing date: 24 April 1996. Please do not send CVs, application letters at this stage.

## FILMS-TV-ARTS- PUBLISHING-MUSIC

Looking for that elusive opening in the fast moving world of the media? As London's leading specialists in Film, TV, Publishing, Music & The Arts we are here to help you, whether you are an experienced PA or a college leaver. If you are bright, energetic and adaptable with good secretarial skills - minimum 50+ wpm typing - then we have the perfect opportunity for you.

**JUDY FISHER ASSOCIATES**  
0171-437 2277  
Recruitment Consultants

## THE NEW YOU!

Are You A Finance Secretary? Fabulous opportunities - Brilliant Salaries

If you have experience working within a financial organisation and have good secretarial skills, the world is your oyster. Pan European has some excellent positions for both audio and shorthand secretaries in leading City companies. Call now to find out more!

**Admin/Secretary/Textile Company - West End**  
£15,000 + Benefits  
Fed up of seeing nothing but Banking adverts? Why not join this industry leader and work for a team of charming but busy executives. If you consider yourself to be a team player, have Word for Windows/Excel and have a steady work history, you could work for a company which understands that it's greatest asset is its employees. Ideal age mid to late 20's.

**TEMP YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS**  
HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RATES

For first class long and short term assignments, including some to permanent situations, Pan European should be your first port of call.

**IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS** (Min 60wpm)  
• Director's Secretary (Banking) - Temp to Perm  
• Team Secretary (Insurance) - Indel  
• Junior Secretary (Holding Co.) - Temp to Perm

**IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS** (Min 60wpm)  
• Team Secretary (Asset Management) - Indel  
• Personal (Insurance) - Indel  
• Secretary/Administrator (Consultancy) - Temp to Perm

If you have good shorthand and audio skills, are aged between 20-40 years old and have good working knowledge of Windows packages:

Please call us on **0171-734 8484**  
Fax 0171 734 8501

**JOHN D WOOD & CO**  
**SECRETARY**  
RESIDENTIAL SALES  
WIMBORNE  
VILLAGE

Good communication and organisational skills, a mix of home and office sales experience, a keen eye for detail and a flexible approach are essential.

**Call Elizabeth Lee**  
0181-944 7172

**PA Secretary to Vice President** **Uxbridge**  
£15,000 + benefits including 25 days holiday  
To assist the Senior Lawyer of Legal Services division of this international company. A full PA role with a mix of secretarial and administrative duties. Excellent opportunity for a motivated individual with a minimum 2 years experience. Please send CV to: Belle Recruitment Ltd, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ED. Tel: 0171 404 4653. Fax: 0171 831 9192.

**Personnel Secretary** **NW1**  
£17,500 - £19,500 + Benefits  
Academic 'unemployment' requires a good communicator with previous secretarial experience in a personnel environment. You will be responsible for a wide range of duties including recruitment, training and development. Excellent opportunity for a motivated individual with a minimum 2 years experience. Please send CV to: Belle Recruitment Ltd, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ED. Tel: 0171 404 4653. Fax: 0171 831 9192.

**Team Secretary** **W1**  
To £16,500 + benefits including 25 days holiday  
To assist the Project Manager in a dynamic and fast-paced environment. You will be responsible for a wide range of duties including recruitment, training and development. Excellent opportunity for a motivated individual with a minimum 2 years experience. Please send CV to: Belle Recruitment Ltd, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ED. Tel: 0171 404 4653. Fax: 0171 831 9192.

**Shorthand Secretary** **WC2**  
£17,500 + benefits  
A challenging role for a well-qualified professional with shorthand of 60wpm and MSWAW v.6 skills to meet him. Ideally aged 25-35, you will be offered a full permanent role and be based in a central location.

**Team Secretary** **WC2**  
£15,000 + bonus scheme  
International Search Consultants seek a self-motivated secretary to assist a highly-motivated team. Skills will include fast typing using Windows and the ability to 'juggle' priorities. Age 20+ - 30+ ideal.

## ADMIN

Excellent opportunity for a motivated individual with a minimum 2 years experience. Please send CV to: Belle Recruitment Ltd, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ED. Tel: 0171 404 4653. Fax: 0171 831 9192.

## NORMA GROUP REC.

0171 222 6881

## Litigation PA

**Sec to Partner**  
£20,000 p.a.  
Experienced, well-organised, mature Litigation PA required by friendly, professional firm. Excellent package for the right applicant. Step Ahead Personnel. 0171 359 9925. Fax: 0171 359 8415.

## JUNIOR SECRETARY

Prestigious City based Financial Company with a reputation for excellence. Junior Secretary to work in the marketing department. Excellent opportunity for a motivated individual with a minimum 2 years experience. Please send CV to: Belle Recruitment Ltd, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ED. Tel: 0171 404 4653. Fax: 0171 831 9192.

## PA TO FUND MANAGERS

£20,000 PACKAGE  
Assist a young, fun and highly successful team of Fund Managers in the heart of the city. They are looking for a smart, switched on secretary with good skills (including shorthand) to co-ordinate their busy working lives. Messes of phone work and client contact. Sense of humour and bags of energy essential.

Call Sarah Turnbull.  
Telephone: 0171 588 8999

## PA TO HEAD OF PERSONNEL

£22,000 + FULL BANK BENS  
This global head of Personnel requires a young, 1st class PA with a professional and committed approach to their work to help run his office. Personnel exp not essential but superb organisational and sec skills (100wpm) and stunning office & fabulous benefits (incl brand new gym) are offered with this great opportunity.

Call Emily Aldrich  
Fax: 0171 588 8996

## PA TO DIRECTOR

6 MONTHS  
Maternity leave contract with a major US Investment Bank working for their Compliance Director on a one to one basis. Previous Compliance or Legal experience essential, as is in-depth knowledge of Word for Windows 6.0 and Excel. Age late 20's early 30's. £10 per hour plus paid overtime.

Please contact Debra Berry.  
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,  
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP  
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

## WORK IN BANKING !!!

£12,000 - £25,000 + MS + BENS  
UPTO £10 PER HOUR  
We currently have many excellent opportunities for confident Secretaries to work within some of London's most prestigious Banks. For permanent positions, please call Melinda Marks and for temporary vacancies please call Debra Berry.

Please contact Melinda Marks.  
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,  
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP  
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

## SECRETARY/ DESK ASSISTANT

TO £18,000 + MS + BENS  
A real opportunity for a confident, ambitious secretary with banking experience to work for this extremely prestigious City Bank. The position will incorporate organising extensive travel arrangements and fund administration. Word for Windows, Excel and Lotus knowledge preferable.

Please contact Melinda Marks.  
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,  
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP  
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

## PA TO PRESS ATTACHE - EMBASSY

£18,000  
Organised PA with diplomacy and charm required to assist the Information Attache in a London based embassy. Candidates will be expected to liaise with the press, handle all their own correspondence, write press releases, articles and speeches, plus cope with general day-to-day secretarial duties. Applicants must be politically astute, smartly presented and excellent communicators. Good shorthand and typing skills essential. WAW, 60wpm typing, French/Italian skills essential. 2+ years work experience.

**GROSVENOR BUREAU**  
TEL: 0171 499 6566

## GROSVENOR

**MEDIA...MEDIA...MEDIA**  
£13,000 - £20,000  
We currently have various exciting positions working within Advertising, Publishing, Newspapers, TV and entertainment for young, hardworking, intelligent secretaries. If you are looking for a change or to make your initial step into the media world call us as soon as possible.

**RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**

## PARLIAMENTARY PA/SEC

£18 - 20,000  
Major political lobbyist need an excellent PA/Secretary with prev. Parliamentary or Government experience. Constant liaison with MP's & Blue Chip companies as well as organising Director's office/diary and meetings etc. Good shorthand and typing skills (65wpm) a must, together with WP skills (Labour bias advantageous). If you are well groomed, have good organisational and communication skills and are looking for an interesting post then please call JACQUELINE LARSON at SUSAN HAMILTON PERSONNEL on 0171 629 9157

## Help Desk Supervisor

£20,000  
This prestigious international company is looking for a reliable & well organised person to supervise their IT help-desk. You will play a vital role in maintaining the technical expertise & service standards of the department. You will liaise with IT suppliers & company-wide contacts, produce user statistics & maintain the database, in addition to training new staff & leading software upgrades. You should have in-depth knowledge of Word 6.0, exp. of Network Operating Systems & 1-2 years in a similar role. Ability to work under pressure & to tight deadlines is essential.

**RECRUITMENT COMPANY**  
0171-431-1220

## DMB&B

is a leading International Communications Group, comprising Advertising, Marketing, Media Planning/Buying and PR. We are currently looking for two secretaries to work at senior levels, one in our Creative Department and the other in our International Division. Our ideal candidates for these positions should be excellent administrators with fast and accurate WP skills (Lotus Smart Suite preferable) and a sound advertising background.

If you have a cheerful lively personality, can remain calm under pressure and if you are willing to work long hours when required, we should be glad to hear from you. You will be working in a busy, friendly environment and become part of a team with a very high level of commitment and where a sense of humour is a positive advantage. Salary neg.

Applications with CV and daytime tel. no. should be addressed to: Heidi Webb, DMB&B, Group Personnel Department, 123 Buckingham Palace, London, SW1W 9DZ.  
Tel no: 0171 592 2350 Fax no: 0171 592 1039.

## CASPE

**Secretary/ Office Manager**  
£18,000 p.a. depending upon experience

CASPE is a leading research and specialist health service consultancy working mainly within the National Health Service. To help us provide clients with an efficient and professional service, we are looking for an experienced Office Manager with a prior secretarial background.

This is a new post and we would like to hear from you if you pride yourself on your ability to manage a team of staff, are dedicated to the provision of accurate high quality work, possess good organisational, communication and interpersonal skills and enjoy working under pressure.

Experience of standard word processing and other office-based software is essential.

For further details contact Linda Howard, Personnel Advisor, at CASPE Consultancy, 78 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1LL. Tel: 0171-378-7588 (24-hr answer service). E-mail: LHOWARD@caspe.co.uk.

Closing date for applications: 25 April 1996

## Target APPOINTMENTS

**OPPORTUNITIES IN MEDIA...**  
Newsroom Administrator - EC3 - £18,200-20,000  
Rare opportunity to join this blue chip company. You'll need to be multi-functional and possess 40/50 wpm typing.

Team Advertising PA - E14 - £14,000  
New role, ideally suited to 2nd jobber with some shorthand and WFW essential. Age approx 25/35 with 1 year.

Litigation PA (2) - E14 & WC1 - £18,200-20,000  
Dealing with international clients, this is a fully involved role for an experienced legal sec. Looking for a step up.

For Audio Typing - E14 - £10,000  
Your boss, a celebrity newspaper editor, is keen to recruit a colleague for his/her job as a secretary to the work place.

Sec. Fleet Secretary/PA - E14 - £17,500  
Variety & Challenge, with strong shorthand (Owen) and WFW essential. Age approx 25/35 with 1 year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DEBORAH OR MARIAN OR FAX YOUR CV. Tel: 0171 242 1185 Fax: 0171 405 5542

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

High calibre, responsible individual sought for an employer's organisation to supervise the provision of secretarial and administrative services, to co-ordinate meetings, organise conferences and industry functions and to manage the premises, which also houses the bodies for the fashion and textile industries.

Candidates must have excellent administrative, organisational and secretarial skills, be able to work under pressure and think ahead, possess an articulate and confident telephone manner, be able to work on own initiative and have common sense, Wordperfect 5.1 essential, experience of UNIX an advantage. The present Administrator is retiring after 27 years.

Salary c £22,000

Applications to The Director, British Clothing Industry Association, 5, Portland Place, London, W1N 3AA.

## MAJOUR WEST END AND BROADWAY PRODUCTION COMPANY

**AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
to assist in the running of this busy office and to support the Executive and Financial Directors. Organisational skills, w.p. and audio skills, computer literacy, energy and the ability to work under pressure are the essential qualities you will need.

Salary s.a.e.

**PRODUCTION SECRETARY**  
to assist the producers with the casting, contacting and organisation of new productions. You will need organisational skills, excellent w.p. and audio skills, good interpersonal skills, the ability to work under pressure and preferably experience of theatre. Salary s.a.e.

Please apply in writing with CV, stating clearly the position applied for, to: The Production Office, 88 Kingsway Ltd, 85-87 Chancery Avenue, London W1V 6JA

## Christopher Keats

**PA TO P.H. BOARD DIRECTOR**  
£18,000 + PERKS  
This leading parliamentary and public affairs consultancy, with an enviable client list, requires a top-notch PA Secretary. Apart from typing proposals and reports, you will be required to perform high quality proof reading, manage hectic diaries, arrange complex travel itineraries. Additionally, there will be heavy client and Members of Parliament liaison, organising meetings and lunches etc. Political/P.A. Affairs company background. Neat shorthand and Word for Windows.

**0171 734 3133**  
9 years of recruiting secretaries in media

## SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£20,000 - International Investment. Executive Administrator where the name of the game is stocks and shares. B.A. or similar qualification backed by excellent secretarial and administrative experience. Skills 80/70. Age 30/45.

£25,000 - Communications Group. The fast moving Marketing Director in the forefront of his field in corporate and public affairs, needs an Executive Secretary with a talent for organising a busy and demanding office. Skills 80/70. Age 25-35.

£28,000 - Specialist area. Executive PA to be the pivotal right hand to the Managing Director. Able to inspire confidence in a role of great variety to include responsibility for group personnel. Skills 80/70. Age 25/35.

4 Ganton Street, London W1  
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

## MATURE SECRETARY REQUIRED.

To join small practice of Chartered Quantity Surveyors when we move to our new premises in Vauxhall in May. Applicants should have good secretarial skills, be computer literate, and have a mature, healthy and flexible approach to handling clients and creating a good working environment.

Salary: Circa £14,000 plus Medical Insurance and 4 weeks holiday per annum.

Please write with full CV and any other relevant information to Box No 4743



## CREME DE LA CREME

## CAREER PA

£25,000

This company chairman, who also holds directorship in several blue chip companies, seeks a business minded PA to whom he can delegate and offer involvement to a very high degree. Team spirit, a high energy level and City experience will all prove invaluable. 60wpm typing essential.

Please telephone 0171-495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

£20,000 + EXCELLENT PACKAGE

This is a high profile position and requires several years experience at director level. You will offer full support to the Chief Executive of this prestigious international organisation. The London office consists of a small, dynamic team but is part of a larger group. Conventional German. Shorthand 80wpm. Typing 60wpm. MS Word. Excel.

Please telephone 0171-628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## LIFE AT THE TOP

£20,000

The Deputy Chairman of this City Bank needs your full support and will involve you in liaison with senior government and industry figures and handling sensitive information. This role to permit role has opportunities for the pro-active to take projects from the executive's desk and enjoy responsibility. Skills 90/60.

Please telephone 0171-628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## PA WITH POWER!

TO £20,000

Working as a secretary to the Head of the Services division of this large City company. You will be involved in varied duties including budget monitoring, liaising with senior staff and managing IT projects. If you want to learn new skills and work in a progressive environment where your day will be varied then this could be the job for you!

Please telephone 0171-628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## WEST LONDON

£18,000

This International media company with interests in both Europe and the USA are looking for an A' level educated PA to assist one of their key legal personnel. The ideal candidate will enjoy personal work and have the ability to work with little supervision in a friendly, professional atmosphere. 55wpm typing essential.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## SURVEYORS' SECRETARY

We are looking for an experienced secretary with excellent audio and organisational skills to join a busy practice in their offices in Mayfair working for two partners. Good knowledge of Microsoft Word (V.6) essential.

Salary £17,000 + benefits.

Please write with CVs to:

Kerry Griffiths, Fineman Ross,

23 Bruton Street, London, W1X 7DA

(No Agencies)

## PARTNERS' PA

£20,000

No legal experience necessary! An 'A' level education and the ability to learn to draft own reports and run the office of a Partner (in his firm) in Mayfair based law practice. Work in a small but very busy environment where you can make a valuable contribution.

WEND 0171 287 2044 FAX 0171 287 3717

MIDDLETON JEFFERS

RECRUITMENT LIMITED

## DIRECTORS' PA

c. £16,000 + Benefits

Match Healthcare Services is the UK market leader in its field. Due to significant changes within the organisation we require an exceptional PA to support the Directors.

Reporting to the Director of Operations you will provide full secretarial support at a senior level within the company, and you will also be expected to manage the office systems on a day-to-day basis.

To be considered for this position you must have excellent communication skills both verbal and written with accurate typing (60wpm), a good knowledge of computer packages particularly Word 6.0 for Windows, and dictation and audio typing skills.

This post is an exciting and challenging one, so we require a confident individual who can accept responsibility without direct supervision, who can exercise initiative and judgement and make decisions within the scope of his/her authority.

If you are the person we are looking for, then call Mary Hardman on 0181 874 2522 for an application form and job description. Applications close on FRIDAY APRIL 28.

MATCH

healthcare services

MATCH Healthcare Services Ltd

Jessica House

Red Lion Square

191 Wardour Street High Street

London W1H 4LS

## MAYFAIR

Secretaries for sale

We have good quality and

excellent secretaries for

sale. We are looking for

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# Keegan stripping people's game of its false mystique

He is a throwback, perhaps to a time that never was, to a time when +3 was always the perfect scoreline, no matter which side of it you were on. "In the North of England, the game is often played in a very different spirit," wrote *The Times* in 1922, "and at times the anxiety to win leads to much unpleasantness."

In the far North East, we have seen a club that plays with passion and style: a team that plays as if owed it to the people — of the North East, of the world — to give them delight. It has been football for the love of it, and by etymology, a team who plays for love is an amateur.

Is that why Newcastle now looked doomed to finish second? Alas, slack.



"We're excited and grateful that he is playing basketball and is a hero to the younger people, who are in need of AIDS awareness," he said. Johnson is now preparing for the play-offs. His dream is to meet Jordan and the Bulls in the best-of-seven championship series. "I pray to God and I hope we get a shot at them," he said. "He [Jordan] wouldn't want to see us. You'll see a hell of a final."

FRANCE (P. Romenio, April 20): R Dourthé, O Verdini, O Campan S Glas, P Santiponce (captain), A Pessaud, G Aouabouche, F Tournier, M Salinas, G Caldeiro, C Mon H Moun, O Roussel, M Lemermet, A Borez, R. Pélacques: F Miliach, T Castiglione, P Carbonneau, T Labrousse, M de Roussillon, M. Jodanis

**Solution on page 46**















# Caught on the hop by change of sentiment

Nice to see that Easter sentiment does not dawdle long in the television schedules. Anyone tuning in to *An Obsession* with... Rabbits last night on BBC2 may have been somewhat surprised to see the Easter bunny variously shot, skinned, hunted, gassed, and finally choked in a Perspex coffin for medical research. I was surprised myself, but then I'm simple. I had expected lots of little pink noses twitching cutely to camera; plus endless shots of that curious bouncy locomotion, perhaps observed romantically by moonlight. *Bright Eyes, la la, burning like fire*. Yes, you can stay up to watch the rabbits, darling," mummies assured their clamouring youngsters. But afterwards, the nightly bedtime reading of *Little Grey Rabbit* was curiously marred by the kiddie taking a bunny toy and a chopping board, and with a few key incisions, attempting to

remove all its fur in one go. There is more than one kind of obsession, of course. Last night, killing or harming rabbits was the life and breath of "The Farmer," "The Hunter," "The Warmer," and "The Medical Researcher" — all of whom, interestingly, were men. No effort had been made to blur the gender divide here. Only "The Fancier" (a woman) actually wanted to scratch ears and cuddle. With her on the daffy female side were "The Spinner" and "The Zoologist". I don't know which gender should resent this stereotyping more, but I was reminded of *The Mists*, when Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe wrestle with a shogun in the desert morning sun. Gable wants to shoot the rabbits who've eaten his lettuce; Monroe, tearful in jeans, insists that they are all petals in God's daisy chain. Most articulate last night was the medical researcher, whom God had clearly intended for poli-

tics. He explained, with clever plausibility, that his rabbits were "heros", whose lives served a higher purpose. Mm. An *Obsession* with... Rabbits was one of those stylish snapshot films with no commentary, enjoyable and light, in an occasional series which would normally deal with sheds or balloons or something. Taking an animal as the subject took it dangerously near real, big issues. As Anthony Thomas's *Man and Animal* (ITV) recently pointed out, are dividing people and cultures increasingly.

I was a funny old night. I can't pretend I was inspired. However, the second episode of *Cardiac Arrest* (BBC1) was a humdinger. Not having followed this drama very closely in the past, I can't tell you when it made the transition from video to film, but I'm sure *Casualty* is kicking it. When *Casualty* attempted the

great leap forward a couple of years ago, it was forced to leap back again: succumbing to public pressure, it apologetically reversed the process. Apparently audiences were bereft when they no longer saw the old familiar flut, soapish picture quality. They didn't want *Casualty* to get above itself. They liked the leaden editing. They wanted to be able to count the freckles on Charlie's arms.

But *Cardiac Arrest* has other tricks up its sleeve, besides the lighting, and besides the notorious sick humour, which initially seemed gratuitous but now seems naturalistic. Narrative surprise, for example, is something *Casualty* has long since swished a cubicle curtain across. Also, youth, energy, ambition. If the key image of *Casualty* is a lumpy Charlie rolling his eyes, the key images of *Cardiac Arrest* are young, callous medics with sharp little faces and glossy skin, some of them with rollerskates. *Casualty* is all passive and reactive. If it could speak, it would say, "Oh, what now?" *Cardiac Arrest* just says, rather aggressively, "What?"

Last night's main medical story involved the removal of a tumour, and a false reassurance of tragic and, broadly, humane, and then criminally stamped his passport. "Indefinite leave to remain". The message was that you can't

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (10294)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (Ceeleat) (41565)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (Ceeleat) (701316)
- 9.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook. Two hopeless cooks are persuaded to prepare something edible (s) (719478)
- 9.45am Kilroy. Topical discussion series (s) (122671)
- 10.30am Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (23494)
- 12.00pm News (Ceeleat), regional news and weather (6923381). 12.05pm Room for Improvement. Includes tips on energy conservation and erecting a fence (s) (8703871)
- 12.35pm Going for Gold. Quiz show with the urbane Henry Kelly (s) (334229)
- 1.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceeleat) and weather (44622) 1.30pm Regional News (9450122) 1.40pm Neighbours (Ceeleat) (s) (4477890)
- 2.00pm Snowy River — the McGregor Saga with Andrew Clarke. Adventure and romance in early 20th-century Australia (s) (34881)
- 3.30pm Playdays (s) (1744584) 3.50pm The Silver Brumby (s) (1748300) 4.15pm Funnymen (s) (s) (5592229) 4.20pm Jonny Briggs (s) (Ceeleat) (6653749) 4.35pm Rugsby (s) (Ceeleat) (6533381) 5.00pm Newsround (s) (1119132) 5.10pm Blue Peter (Ceeleat) (s) (124236)
- 5.35pm Neighbours. Marlene enjoys Colin's quiet attentions, while Daniel pours oil on troubled waters (Ceeleat) (s) (274720)
- 6.00pm Six O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis and Andrew Harvey. (Ceeleat) Weather (961)
- 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (213)
- 7.00pm Relatively Speaking. Gordon Burns hosts the game show for players from three generations (Ceeleat) (s) (1671)
- 7.30pm Here and Now. Reports and news features presented by Sue Lawley (Ceeleat) (497)
- 8.00pm Hearts of Gold. Esther Renizan and Carol Smith are joined by hypnotist Paul McKenna (Ceeleat) (s) (517565)
- 8.50pm Points of View with Anne Robinson (Ceeleat) (s) (744045)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News with Peter Sissons (Ceeleat) Regional news and weather (4126)
- 9.30pm Rough Justice: Who Killed Carl Bridgewater? (Ceeleat) (s) (70381)
- 10.20pm Sportnight Introduced by Tony Gubbs with Trevor Brooking. Golf: a preview of the US Masters, which begins tomorrow in Augusta, Georgia; Greyhound racing coverage from Walthamstow of the BBC TV Greyhound Trophy; Olympic countdown to Atlanta (s) (541234)
- 11.30pm FILM: True Confessions (1981) starring Robert De Niro, Robert Downey Jr., Charles Durning, Ed Flanders and Burgess Meredith. Tough drama. A priest with political ambitions and his brother, a principled policeman, are driven apart when the priest is implicated in a cover-up after the murder of a prostitute. Directed by Ulu Grosbard (s) (585403)
- 11.50pm Weather (796817)

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## BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Community Programmes Season — a Sense of Self. Learning for All: Children First (7770216)
- 6.25am An Introduction to Psychology (755561) 6.50am Zorro (s) (863403)
- 7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (Ceeleat) and signing (4850126)
- 7.30pm Christopher Crocodile (s) (7496294) 7.35pm Postman Pat (s) (9755229) 7.50pm Peter Pan and the Pirates (s) (Ceeleat) (s) (82855) 8.15pm Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (Ceeleat) (797474) 8.35pm The Lowdown (Ceeleat) (s) (550331)
- 9.05pm Mighty Max (s) (7016229) 9.25pm F.O.T. (s) (793749) 10.00pm Playdays (s) (697687) 10.35pm Star Trek (s) (422568)
- 10.50pm The Ties (s) (1197836) 11.10pm Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (s) (885381)
- 12.00pm Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (59872) 12.30pm Working Lunch (33403) 1.00pm Postman Pat (s) (4225231)
- 1.15pm The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (3/5) (s) (777861)
- 2.15pm The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7479923)
- 3.00pm News (Ceeleat) and weather (7807126)
- 3.05pm Golf — the US Masters 1995 (s) (7953881)
- 3.55pm News (Ceeleat) and weather (2027300)
- 4.00pm Today's the Day (s) (126) 4.30pm Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (710) 5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceeleat) (s) (1834367)
- 5.40pm A Week to Remember (186869)
- 5.50pm More Secret Gardens. Thorp Parrow, Bedale, North Yorkshire (s) (73395)
- 6.00pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (Ceeleat) (s) (649487)
- 6.45pm Buck Rogers in the 25th Century. (1/2) (s) (850316)
- 7.30pm East Takeaways on Wheels. Sahara Chohan reports from Pakistan, a prime destination for stolen two-wheel-drive vehicles from Britain (Ceeleat) (s) (662)
- 8.00pm University Challenge. Imperial College v Exeter University, chaired by Jeremy Paxman (Ceeleat) (s) (1861)
- 8.30pm Home Front. The home improvement show features the phenomenally successful Shaker style and a report from the Shaker Museum in Bath. Plus tips on painting a wooden floor (Ceeleat) (s) (4768)

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## BBC2

- 6.00am GMTV (9629872)
- 9.25pm Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7157497) 9.55pm Regional News (Ceeleat) (6001826)
- 10.00pm Balloon — the Animated Series (s) (6911213) 10.25pm Cartoon (s) (1785657)
- 10.35pm FILM: I Still Dream of Jeannie (1991) Comedy with Barbara Eden repeating her role as a genie (s) (4442723)
- 12.20pm HTV News (Teletext) (9251565)
- 12.30pm News and weather (Teletext) (3857126)
- 12.55pm Shortland Street (s) (3393045)
- 1.25pm Coronation Street (Teletext) (s) (5161687)
- 2.00pm Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (5479452) 2.25pm Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (5488668) 2.50pm Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4115861)
- 3.20pm News (Teletext) (7987316) 3.25pm Regional News (Teletext) (7986637)
- 3.30pm Alphabet Castle (s) (s) 3.40pm The Wind in the Willows (Part 1 of 3) An animated version, first shown last Christmas. Beautifully drawn, brilliantly voiced. (Teletext) (s) (7977956) 4.10pm Cartoon (s) (752251) 4.20pm How 2 (s) (662497) 4.40pm Spellbinder (Teletext) (s) (5596881)
- 5.10pm A Country Practice (s) (9876818)
- 5.40pm News and weather (Teletext) (723671)
- 6.00pm Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (720565)
- 6.25pm HTV News (Teletext) (438478)
- 7.00pm Wish You Were Here...? Judith Chalmers visits Egypt (Teletext) (s) (3039)
- 7.30pm Coronation Street. Kevin finds out the identity of his new boss (Teletext) (565)
- 8.00pm All You Need is Love. Antha Turner introduces a woman who abseiled down the Eiffel Tower to propose (1359)

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## CHOICE

- Modern Times: Flatmates**  
BBC1, 9.00pm  
In Hington three Cambridge graduates want two women to balance their masculinity in a "luxury period flat". In Fulham two women are in search of a man. And three female evangelists, having prayed to Jesus before framing the ad, are seeking another young Christian to share their house in south London. Lucy Blackstad, who made *Life and Weekenders*, is a filmmaker with a sharp eye for the minutiae of everyday life. The show, who shares how recruiting a suitable flatmate can often come down to the small, irritating things, such as whether, in a mixed household, the men will always leave the laundry set just down. The only pity is that the film stops just when the final decisions are being made. But it leaves Blackstad with a wonderful chance for a follow-up.
- Bodyguards**  
BBC1, 9.00pm  
"I wouldn't have it if it came with the freedom on New Scotland Yard," declares John Strappell's Commander MacIntyre, as he is offered the job of heading a crack new VIP protection team. Two seconds later he has started work. It is that sort of show and that sort of script. Bodyguards is the creation of Jeffrey Cairns, whose other credits include the latest Bond film and *The Chief*. Rarely for a police series, *The Chief* broke new ground. Bodyguards goes over very old ground, harking back to those action-adventure series that seemed to dominate the TV schedules about 25 years ago. The first job of the bodyguards is to protect a man in London, but the second is to protect a man in a conference. Be prepared for bombs, car chases and shifty foreigners.
- Dispatches: Murder in St James's**  
Channel 4, 9.00pm  
Twelve years after the death of the policewoman Yvonne Fletcher during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London, Dispatches challenges a version of events and suggests a startling new one. The inquest jury found that WPC Fletcher was killed by a bullet fired from the first floor of the embassy. The episode severely poisoned Anglo-Libyan relations and helped to win British support for President Reagan's bombing of Tripoli. But Joe Layburn's report goes back over the forensic evidence and suggests that the fatal bullet came not from the embassy but from another building. Backed by expert opinion, the argument seems plausible. As to who did fire the bullet, the programme has an ingenious, if speculative, theory that seems so unlikely it could well be true.
- Rough Justice: Who Killed Carl Bridgewater?**  
BBC1, 9.30pm  
It is 18 years since the paperboy Carl Bridgewater was shot dead at Yew Tree Farm in the West Midlands, but the case will not go away. To supporters of the four men convicted of his murder, it represents a colossal miscarriage of justice. Central to the conviction was a confession by one of the men, Patrick Molloy, who died in prison in 1981. *Rough Justice* adds its voice to those who claim that the confession was drafted by the police and signed by Molloy out of fear. The programme also says that forensic evidence has come to light which should have been disclosed at the trial. In addition, there is an interview with Hubert Spencer, an early suspect in the case. The Home Secretary has decided to send the case back to the Court of Appeal. *Rough Justice* urges him to reconsider.

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## CHOICE

- Bodyguards**  
Action drama involving competing intelligence services, with Louise Lombard, Sean Pertwee, John Strappell (Teletext) (s) (7565)
- 10.00pm News at Ten and weather** (Teletext) (54367)
- 10.30pm Regional News** (Teletext) (869519)
- 10.40pm FILM: Donato and Daughter** (1993) starring Charles Bronson, Dana Delany and Linda Barclay. A father and daughter in the Los Angeles Police Department find themselves partnered in the hunt for a serial killer. Directed by Rod Holcomb (Teletext) (s) (2836519)
- 12.25pm God's Gift** (5523879)
- 1.25pm Dear Nick** (935898)
- 2.25pm Bushell on the Box** (s) (2083546)
- 2.55pm Murder, She Wrote** (s) (3700189)
- 3.45pm Music Box Profile** (11978071)
- 4.05pm Coach** (s) (4053508)
- 4.30pm The Time... the Place** (s) (57275)
- 5.00pm Cover Story** (s) (92850)
- 5.30pm Morning News** (72459)

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## As HTV WEST except:

- 6.25pm-7.00pm Wales Tonight (438478)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.25-12.30pm My Story (6039584)
- 12.55pm Coronation Street (3338045)
- 1.25-1.55pm Chain Letters. Word game with cash prizes, presented by Vince Henderson (79281381)
- 1.55pm Home and Away (6329836)
- 2.25pm Vanessa. Studio discussion series, chaired by Vanessa Feltz (5470439)
- 2.55-3.20pm A Country Practice (5610836)
- 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (9876818)
- 6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (32720)
- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm Home and Away (3838045)
- 1.25pm Chain Letters (79281381)
- 1.55pm A Country Practice (44656565)
- 2.20pm Vanessa (54705788)
- 2.50-3.20pm Our House. Lifestyle magazine presented by Suzi Baker. Includes a couple who quit the London rat-race for a life of tranquility in a Georgian house in Shropshire and a woman who lives in a railway bogie (4115861)
- 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (9876818)
- 6.25-7.00pm Central News and Weather (438478)
- 7.30pm The Good Sex Guide...Late (4124169)
- 8.25pm Jones and Jerry. A woman eight-months pregnant sues her former lover and his new girlfriend for harassment and emotional stress (21655275)
- 9.45pm Joffinder (373072)
- 9.50pm Asian Eye (1284514)
- MERIDIAN**
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- 1.55pm A Country Practice (44656565)
- 2.20pm Vanessa (54705788)
- 2.50-3.20pm The Country Set (4115861)
- 5.10pm Home and Away (9876818)
- 5.37-5.40pm Three Minutes — FreeScreen (915126)
- 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (229)
- 6.30-7.00pm Doing It Up (381)
- 6.00pm FreeScreen (92850)
- S4C**
- Starts: 6.30pm Fifteen to One** (46872) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (30403) 9.00pm Saved by the Bell: The College Years (14836) 9.30pm Gamesmaster (6342229) 9.55pm California Dreams (6788126) 10.20pm Mork and Mindy (1105584) 10.50pm The Adventures of Tintin (1105584) 11.15pm The Pink Panther (6643831) 11.40pm Dog City (9048889) 12.00pm The Legend of White Fang (27300) 12.30pm A Box Full of Stories (55671) 1.00pm Slot Methrin (33590) 1.30pm Film: The Card (9063671) 3.10pm The Monty Williams Show (9893831) 4.00pm Jimmy's (294) 4.30pm Motorbikes (478) 5.00pm Pump Up the Volume (7045) 5.30pm Fifteen to One (5581) 6.00pm Newyddion (636107) 6.15pm Hero (170942) 7.00pm Pabot Y Cwm (654403) 7.25pm Portread: Gerald Lloyd (812316) 8.00pm Gwynn Af Fydd: Boli (3229) 8.30pm Cyfnewid (9836) 9.00pm Encounters: The Transience of the Humble (6107) 10.00pm Brookside (75589) 10.30pm E.R. (80213) 11.30pm Cybil (26768)

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- 12.55pm Chain Letters (3838045)
- 1.25pm Home and Away (79281381)
- 1.55pm A Country Practice (44656565)
- 2.20pm Vanessa (54705788)
- 2.50-3.20pm The Country Set (4115861)
- 5.10pm Home and Away (9876818)
- 5.37-5.40pm Three Minutes — FreeScreen (915126)
- 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (229)
- 6.30-7.00pm Doing It Up (381)
- 6.00pm FreeScreen (92850)
- S4C**
- Starts: 6.30pm Fifteen to One** (46872) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (30403) 9.00pm Saved by the Bell: The College Years (14836) 9.30pm Gamesmaster (6342229) 9.55pm California Dreams (6788126) 10.20pm Mork and Mindy (1105584) 10.50pm The Adventures of Tintin (1105584) 11.15pm The Pink Panther (6643831) 11.40pm Dog City (9048889) 12.00pm The Legend of White Fang (27300) 12.30pm A Box Full of Stories (55671) 1.00pm Slot Methrin (33590) 1.30pm Film: The Card (9063671) 3.10pm The Monty Williams Show (9893831) 4.00pm Jimmy's (294) 4.30pm Motorbikes (478) 5.00pm Pump Up the Volume (7045) 5.30pm Fifteen to One (5581) 6.00pm Newyddion (636107) 6.15pm Hero (170942) 7.00pm Pabot Y Cwm (654403) 7.25pm Portread: Gerald Lloyd (812316) 8.00pm Gwynn Af Fydd: Boli (3229) 8.30pm Cyfnewid (9836) 9.00pm Encounters: The Transience of the Humble (6107) 10.00pm Brookside (75589) 10.30pm E.R. (80213) 11.30pm Cybil (26768)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. They allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a programme automatically with a VideoPlus+™ handset. You can also use the Video PlusCodes to programme your video recorder to watch a programme automatically with a VideoPlus+™ handset.

Sports presenter Gary Imlich (9.00pm)

12.00pm Nightsports. An all-night live sports series presented by Gary Imlich. Over six hours, Gary will be linking some of the world's best sport with his own insight, humour and knowledge. Tonight's top action is NBA basketball in which the Phoenix Suns travel to Utah Jazz (s) (483396). Ends at 6.00am

Country music from 6pm to 7pm on satellite, 24 hours on cable, including Sports and Dance Ranch

**SEE TV**

7.00pm Jaeger (4681749) 7.30pm Zee Presents... (3700045) 9.00pm Bengali Sent at Lockdown (2883300) 9.30pm The Hi Ho (5454681) 10.00pm Urdu Serial (4869768) 11.00pm Manu (8870478) 11.30pm Urdu Movie (1826251) 12.00pm Urdu Serial (287565) 3.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 3.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 4.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 4.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 5.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 5.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 6.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 6.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 7.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 7.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 8.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 8.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 9.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 9.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 10.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 10.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 11.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 11.30pm Urdu Serial (2774590) 12.00pm Urdu Serial (2774590)

**CARTOON NETWORK/ITV**

Continues cartoons from 5pm to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm Boys' Night Out (1982) (1044303) 8.00pm Diner (1982) (8505029) 11.00pm Sex Heroes (1982) (3077788) 12.00pm Double Bill (1981) (8293701) 2.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701)

**PERFORMANCE**

7.00pm Fala — Teacher Don't Touch Me (1982) (1044303) 8.00pm Diner (1982) (8505029) 11.00pm Sex Heroes (1982) (3077788) 12.00pm Double Bill (1981) (8293701) 2.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701)

**BBC WORLD**

News on the hour

8.00pm Horizon 9.30pm Holiday 10.30pm Time Out Film 9.30pm 1.55pm Panorama 2.15pm World Business Asia and Pacific 2.30pm Newsline 2.55pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 3.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 3.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 4.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 4.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 5.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 5.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 6.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 6.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 7.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 7.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 8.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 8.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 9.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 9.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 10.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 10.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 11.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 11.30pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701) 12.00pm Double Bill (1982) (8293701)

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RFU dictates future plans to clubs

# Rugby union lurches closer towards split

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) flung down the gauntlet to its senior clubs yesterday. In a display of controlled leadership likely to win considerable sympathy from the sport's rank and file, the union asserted its right as a governing body to control the game in England.

It did so by confirming that the Courage Clubs Championship next season will have a first division of ten clubs, with relegation for the bottom two this season; that the top four will play European rugby and the remainder in an Anglo-Welsh tournament; that the second division will comprise 14 clubs and the third division 16 clubs. That goes against the clubs' desire for a 12-club first division next season and no relegation at the end of this month — and means that West Hartlepool will go down and another club will join them.

At the same time, the RFU wants to strengthen the English game by introducing a competition for nationals only. Divisional teams of English-qualified players will take on Argentina, a junior South African team and Queensland next autumn. The clubs, however, insist that this programme will leave them bereft of rugby and income for nearly two months, and will lead to bankruptcy.

The RFU's proposals have left their leading clubs, those which form English Professional Clubs Limited (EPRUC), cast as a potential breakaway movement. The first division clubs meet in London tomorrow to consider their future.

The sticking point is control of the game. The RFU believes that EPRUC seeks to establish itself as an organisational body subservient to the International Rugby Football Board, but virtually equal to the union itself with responsi-

bility for the professional side of the English game. The RFU, defending the principle of a seamless sport, will have no truck with that.

Point by point, it has rebutted a dozen draft proposals that the clubs deem vital to their continued good health, and informed Donald Kerr, the chairman of EPRUC, that the clubs' proposed management structure is unacceptable. Instead, the RFU, which has accused the clubs of protectionism, offers a new structure under the union's umbrella that will incorporate a management board equipped to deal with the day-to-day affairs of the leading clubs.

## THE DECISIONS

The RFU will:

- Negotiate TV rights and sponsorship.
- Control the flow of new money to the clubs.
- Deal directly with representative players and make one unified player contract.
- Retain relegation from the first division this season.
- Retain a ten-club first division for clubs going into Europe and a cross-border competition.
- Introduce a new divisional competition involving overseas sides.

"The money is not present in the game to justify the professional organisation which some people envisage," Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the RFU executive committee, said at Twickenham. "It might happen in three to five years' time, but it's not viable now and many clubs know it. We are not talking real money at the moment. Each club must take its own business decisions and we will do all we can to help them through this difficult period."

Malcolm Phillips, who successfully chaired the union's working party with the England squad to make the most of their earning power, was

even more stark in his warning. "The last thing we want is another club breakaway," he said. "Neither the clubs nor the union has the money to do what we want to do to fund an open game."

"People are making promises they can't keep. Players will suffer, some clubs will go bust. We will grow into the open game but we, as a union, will control the game. We don't want to be just another professional sport, we want to retain the special ethos which still exists and, by keeping central control, we can go forward."

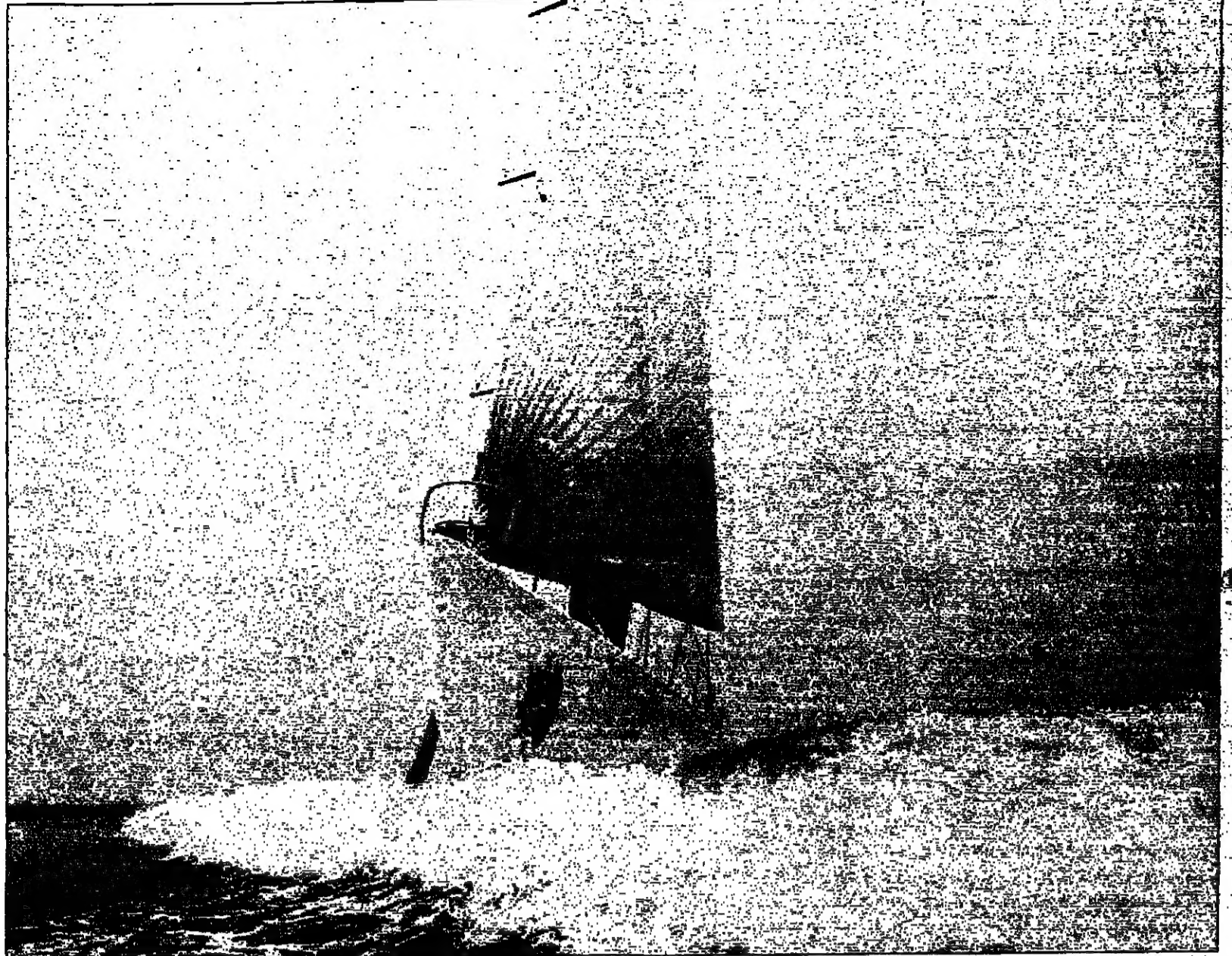
The RFU is wary of comparisons with football drawn by Sir John Hall, the chairman of Newcastle United's Sporting Club. Only last week, Sir John said that international rugby would become an "add-on" to high-profile club rugby. Don Rutherford, the union's technical director, riposted by saying that the England rugby team was among the world's top four while its football counterpart languishes in the mid-20s, a point weakened by the limited quality of international opposition in rugby union.

Brittle said: "The management structure we have offered the clubs is light years away from anything the RFU has offered them in the past. The ideal solution would be for EPRUC to say they are willing to sit down and discuss the sensible structure we have put before them."

That seems far from likely. The clubs, which have put out feelers towards the southern hemisphere and hope to negotiate their own television contracts, believe themselves to be between the devil and the deep blue sea.

"We are very disappointed," Kerr said. "I hope by Thursday we will know exactly what the RFU has said and we will give a measured response." A rift, which rugby union has avoided since that with the northern clubs a century ago, is looming.

Bath prepared, page 43



Nicorette Grand Mistral, the new boat of Ingval, from Sweden, performed impressively during a short race on the Hamble yesterday

## Grand Mistral plans blown off course

BY EDWARD GORMAN  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS hard to know whether to celebrate the arrival of *Nicorette Grand Mistral*, Ludde Ingval's new boat, on the Hamble yesterday or regret its very existence. Ingval, the round-the-world skipper from Sweden, had brought it over from Marseilles to show off to the British press, no doubt partly in a bid to increase support for the apparently doomed Grand Mistral Race.

The boat, designed by Bruce Farr, is an impressive looking beast. It is capable of an exciting performance — 20 knots in 28 knots of wind — and showed good speed yesterday in light conditions against Ingval's old mini-maxi, which romped away with the Fastnet Race last year.

Yet it looks more and more as though the new boat has

been built for a race that will never happen. The Grand Mistral is supposed to start this September from Marseilles. The idea was to blend the Whitbread and BT Global Challenge concepts by offering syndicates completed one-design yachts ready to race round the world in a test of pure sailing skill, rather than of the ability of designers or the size of budgets.

Pierre Fehlmann, the veteran off-shore racing yachtsman from France, who came up with the idea, hoped that sponsors would be attracted to a cheaper and more easily understood race, but he has been proved wrong.

With just five months to go to the start, only three syndicates have definitely signed up, one of which is Ingval's *Nicorette* team; the other two are Grant Dalton (*Merit Cup*) and Marc Pajot (*Marseilles Provençe*). Ingval is thus in the faintly ridiculous position

of training a crew and tuning a boat that he is unlikely ever to race in the event for which it was built. However, this is not his problem.

Pharmacia and Upjohn, who make *Nicorette* anti-smoking patches, have paid



Ingval: promotional visit

the agreed charter fee for the yacht up to the time when the race was supposed to have finished, but Fehlmann has agreed to pay it back if the event does not get off the ground. Ingval thus gets a new yacht to campaign with virtually for free.

Yesterday, he said that he still believes that the Grand Mistral will happen, but he is not sure when. He said that there must be at least eight boats at the start to make it a worthwhile contest, which, at present, is out of the question, and he suggested one solution to Fehlmann's nightmare could be to run the Mistral maxis as a separate class in the next Whitbread, in 18 months' time.

"At some stage, administrators in the UK and elsewhere have to start doing what's best for the sport; they have to serve the sport," he said in comments possibly directed at the Whitbread organisers.

"Running two round-the-world events in parallel is not a good formula for the sport."

Apart from the difficulties facing Fehlmann, who may end up with eight one-design maxis with no race to run them in, the likely failure of the Mistral project may not be unequivocally good news for the Whitbread.

In its early optimistic months, the Mistral distracted a number of the top skippers and sponsors, and has directed three into what now looks like a cul-de-sac. As one guest on board Ingval's boat put it: "The great pity is that we may end up with two half-cock races — the Grand Mistral took people's eye of the ball."

There was good news, however, for the Whitbread yesterday with the announcement of a second, apparently confirmed, entry in the race. The Russia 300 syndicate will be skippered by Eugene Platon.

## Busst will fight for career

David Busst, the Coventry City defender whose right leg was so dramatically broken in front of 50,332 spectators at Old Trafford on Monday, lies in hope in more ways than one.

He is in Hope Hospital, in Manchester, where the fracture has been stabilised but will not be reset until next week at the earliest; and, of course, he is in hope that, when the surgeons have done their best, when the predicted year of rehabilitation and committed work from him and all around him at Coventry are through, he will put together his broken career.

It is this marriage of medical science and sport that presents a footballer with his greatest fear. Busst came into the full-time game late. He is almost 29, married with a young daughter, and he joined Coventry City from non-League Moor Green in January 1992. "I feel sorry, sometimes, for young players coming straight into the game from school," he said then. "It's the only life they know, yet it could be snatched away by injury, and they then have to try to find some other employment. I had eight years in business, and that will stand me in good stead."

Insurance was Busst's business and he will surely not have been lax in joining the Professional Footballers Association (PFA) voluntary accident insurance scheme that allows players to pay a premium of one per cent of total cover — for £100,000 worth of cover the premium is £1,000. The PFA paid out more than £8 million to members between 1980 and 1995, all too often having to calculate the non-contributory payments, based on service and earnings. While the tackle by John



Rob Hughes says the stricken Coventry defender is assured of top class remedial treatment

Salako, of Coventry, that broke the leg of Steve Harkness, of Liverpool, last Saturday, did bring recriminations because it was late and high, mostly, the injuries arise from pure accidents, like the one involving Busst and Denis Irwin.

Yet, however generous the compensation, the trauma of that scene in Manchester will haunt those who think and care about sport.

Busst was at least fortunate



Busst: late entrant

in one way. Immediately he fell, both the players around him and, particularly, the physiotherapist who was first to lay hands on him, knew exactly what they were doing.

Dion Dublin, his own captain, had broken a leg, and lost some of the lustre from his career, while he was a Manchester United player. George Dalton, the physiotherapist, also knew the feeling. He had to retire at 27 after twice breaking a leg, first at Newcastle United and then with Brighton and Hove Albion.

Dalton, in his first years as a qualified physiotherapist with Birmingham City, saved the career of the fledgling Trevor Francis. In that case, there was a hidden injury, a snapped tendon behind the knee and, while even specialists had differed on the need for surgery or rest, it was Dalton's perseverance that ensured that Francis would not be risked until surgical exploration had been carried out.

Dalton, having spent Monday night with Busst, said yesterday that he had seen

only once in his career such an obviously compounded injury. He followed the basic rule: "Do no further harm."

There were two doctors on the scene, but, as Dalton said: "Normally it comes down to the physio. The job was to get Dave onto the stretcher without twisting him."

Dalton then had to make judgments in a matter of seconds that would have taxed an orthopaedic specialist. He had to organise the lifting of Busst on to the stretcher with as much speed and compassion as possible.

Once in the hands of Raymond Ross, the orthopaedic consultant, the extent of the injury, more consistent with a motorcycle accident than a sporting injury, was such that he could only use an external fixator, hope to stabilise the break and fix it with a nail before surgery to set the bone next week.

He will then hand Busst over to John Aldridge, the Coventry consultant, who is well known to sportsmen and women across many disciplines. So, the player is in the best possible hands, but, ultimately, his career — if indeed it can be resumed — will be down to his own courage and determination.

Dalton worked with Busst throughout last season while he recovered from a double hernia. "The boy's got a big heart, you can see from the way he plays," he said. "He will fight and work at it."

However, when he does return, as prognosis says he will, he will be nudging 30. "You can't even think about that," Dalton said. "I will treat him as an 18-year-old, and that way both of us will try to restore him to the fullest possible fitness."

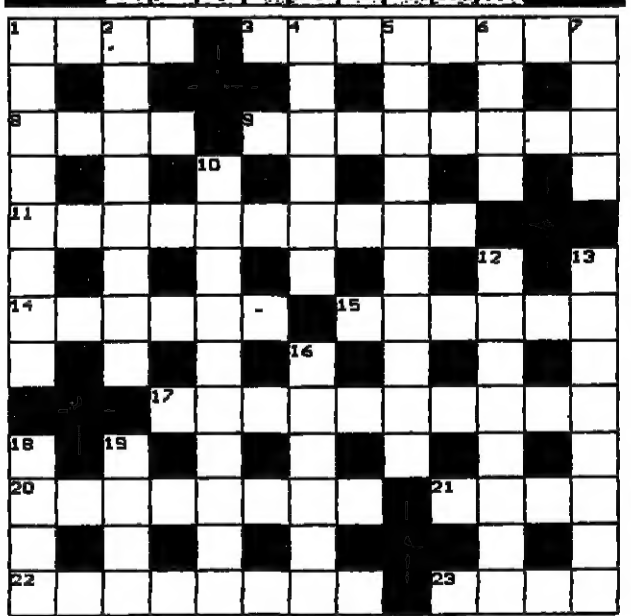
Dr Stuttford, page 8

## Schmeichel in distress

PETER SCHMEICHEL, the Manchester United goalkeeper, was so badly affected by David Busst's injury that he received counselling after the match, according to David Fevre, the Manchester United physiotherapist (David Maddock writes).

"Peter was very upset and he received some counselling from the doctor after the match," Fevre said. "He was very close when it happened. The doctor talked to him afterwards, to try to put it in perspective. It can be a real trauma, not just for the injured player but for others too." Fevre, who visited Busst in hospital yesterday, said that he was in good spirits. "He was pleased and surprised by the flowers and cards that he had received from United supporters, as well as our own," Fevre said.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 752

## ACROSS

- 1 Wrinkle loose scum (4)
- 2 Using profanities (3)
- 3 Miniature playperson (4)
- 4 Letter: round (8)
- 5 Big, heavy, and awkward (10)
- 6 A slat: a museum (6)
- 7 Sad mood, addressed by Keats (10)
- 8 Improbable (8)
- 9 Inclined slope: scum (4)
- 10 Eternal boy (5,3)
- 11 Liquefy (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Derivative mockery (8)
- 2 1492 Atlantic crossover (8)
- 3 Capricious fancy (6)
- 4 Fellow-criminal (10)
- 5 Misfortunes (4)
- 6 Involving much split blood (4)
- 7 Woeple (4-6)
- 8 Write comments on (8)
- 9 Doesn't budge (5,3)
- 10 A flower: Wooster's nice aunt (6)
- 11 Swallow hard (4)
- 12 Hole for egg coin (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 751

ACROSS: 1 Claimant 5 Atom 9 Breaking point 10 Shin 11 Integer 13 House 15 Thrust 16 Secrete 20 To go 23 On the safe side 24 Taco 25 Seat belt

## DOWN: 1 Cube 2 Aleph 3 Makings 4 Nuncio 6 Trigger 7 Maturity 8 Spot 12 Phase out 14 Ascentic 16 Hot seat 17 Debase 19 Eden 21 Guide 22 Bent

## SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 747

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Pads 3 Mobster 8 Curtain 9 Lowly 10 Foyer 11 Flaccid 13 On the make 17 Awkward 19 Plate 20 Negus 22 Atavism 23 Henpeck 24 Wren

DOWN: 1 Pacific 2 Dirty work 3 Mansfield Park 4 Balas 5 Tow 6 Riyadh 7 Carrot 12 Chevalier 14 Appeal 15 Faunch 16 Sermon 18 Aisle 21 Gun

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